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For meaning of this number see page 204.

JOHN BULL

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[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

Contents

The World, the Flesh, and the Devil.

John Bull's Biscuits.

War Office Bribery.

Law in Guernsey.

"The Bogus Vanderbuilt."

Imaginary Interview.

John Bull League.

John Bull in the City.

John Bull's Post-cards, Letters, and Telegrams.

The Cartoon.

Among the Lawyers.

The Drama of To-day.

John Bull's Womenfolk.

Bull's Eyes.

John Bull's Letter

Racing Notes, etc.

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I	38	34	31
K	38	34	32
L	38	34	34
M	40	36	30
N	40	36	32
O	40	36	34
P	42	41	30
Q	42	38	32
R	44	43	30
S	44	43	32

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

There is not an atom of foundation for the rumours which have recently been in circulation respecting the domestic life of an eminent politician, between whom and his wife relations are of the most affectionate character.

We are in a position to state that up to the present Mr. Asquith has received no "assurances" of any kind from the King in regard to the political situation.

What are all these rumours about the circumstances attending the death of Earl Percy in Paris?

The one question now asked is, how long can the Government hold out? We are at present disposed to think that with a little luck (and no Autumn Session), the new election may be put off to the spring, but that is the extreme limit. Failing, however, this condition, we should name July.

In the latter event, it is difficult to prophesy how things would go. We do not believe there would be a working majority for either of the old Parties, nor do we see any prospect of one if a General Election were held every six months. The Party system is played out. Our only wonder is that it lasted so long.

"The King's prophecy comes true," says our sparkling contemporary, the *Express*, apropos the Master of Wellington being made a Bishop! We fancy His Majesty could "prophesy" several other promotions.

The Hackney Trades Council has repudiated the manifesto of that bogus "Liberal and Labour Protest Committee" which, on the eve of the South Hackney Poll, came to the assistance of Mr. Conway Wertheimer. It shall count to them for righteousness.

Ben Tillett is very severe on the Labour Party. He thinks that by allying themselves with the Libs, as he calls them, they are committing suicide. We are sorry Ben isn't in the House. He would have stirred things up a bit.

We are delighted to welcome our flourishing contemporary, *The Drapers' Record*, as a convert to the principles of the Business Government. Here is an extract from a leading article in its issue of January 29th:—

> It is not in the interests of traders that non-party consideration of important commercial matters should be made impossible through fear of giving offence to party politicians. There are questions which business men, as business men, can alone settle satisfactorily, and which demand discussion in an atmosphere devoid of all party prejudice. It is bad for commerce that such subjects should be decided on party-political lines; it is even worse that the fact of a subject being labelled a "party" one should operate as a bar to calm and cool deliberation without recognition of party at all.

We are getting on!

Yes, Business Government is forging ahead. From all parts come reports of pledges given by candidates to support our Dormant Bank Balances Bill, whilst many of them openly advocate the introduction of better business methods into the public departments of the State. Here, for instance, is an extract from the *Scotsman*:—

> AN ELECTOR: Why did the Government take foreign granite?
>
> SIR ROBERT CRANSTON (Unionist Candidate for Leith): My dear fellow, I was not in it. The curse of our representation is lawyers, landlords and others, *instead of business men*, being in Parliament, they do not do us any good. There is the truth about it.

And we are delighted to read that this declaration was received with "Loud applause"—in which we join.

One of the effects of the establishment of Labour Exchanges, not foreseen by the Government, may be to draw attention to the vast volume of unemployment in the country—and the Tariff Reformers may be relied upon to point the moral. Of course, the difficulty will be to really interest employers in the scheme. The German temperament in these matters is very different from the British. Still, we wish Mr. Churchill luck—before he "goes up."

Hardly a constituency in the country has escaped the activities of the Pharisees. We have before us a bill circulated in Lewisham by religious cranks who were out vote-catching. This is how it reads:—

> To say the Lord's Prayer—
> "THY KINGDOM COME"
> And Vote For The
> BREWERS AND PEERS
> Who hold the keys to the Drink Kingdom
> IS DIRECTLY OPPOSING CHRIST'S KINGDOM.

We are inclined to think that if the Liberal party had received less of this kind of support they would have made a better show at the polls.

We have done the Rev. Dr. Paton, of Nottingham, an injustice. Misled by the statement in one of the newspapers, we attributed to him in a recent issue the election parody of a well-known hymn. We are assured by several friends of Dr. Paton that the real perpetrator is the Rev. F. A. Rees, pastor of the Nottingham "Tabernacle"; and this being so, it gives us the greatest pleasure to make honourable amends to Dr. Paton for crediting him with a political performance of which, by the testimony of those who best know his work as a minister of religion, it is incredible that he could have been guilty.

Somebody has sent us the following political mourning card :—

IN MEMORY
OF
THOMAS H. SLOAN,
Late Member of Parliament for South Belfast,
Who Departed His Parliamentary Life
on the
20th Day of January, 1910,
And was interred in the Home Rule Cemetery.
R.I.P.
(Resurrection Indefinitely Postponed.)
Sentenced to Death by Loyal Unionist Electors
of South Belfast, and duly executed by
JAMES CHAMBERS, ESQ., K.C., M.P.

Alas! poor Tommy! We knew him well!

If any of our readers should think that we were unduly hard on Mr. Branch, the ex-Enfield M.P., let us quote a paragraph from the *Middlesex Gazette* :—

> There was one incident during the count about which considerable comment has been made. Both candidates were, of course, present during the count, and when it was evident that Mr. Newman had won, Mr. Engel suggested to him that he should shake hands with Mr. Branch, who was standing near by, watching the counters. So far as we could see, Mr. Newman stepped forward and essayed to take his opponent's hand, when Mr. Branch swung round on his heel, pulling his hand away, exclaiming, "I won't shake hands with you; you have won on lies." The incident caused a momentary excitement, and a minute or two afterwards Mr. Spicer and Mr. Roth both shook hands with Mr. Newman, and the latter, on behalf of his Party, apologised to Mr. Newman for the action of Mr. Branch, who subsequently refused to accompany the Returning Officer or to second the vote of thanks.

Almost as bad as Sir Henry Norman!

And now for dear friend Nicholls, late of Northants. "Their opponents might have defeated them . . . but they had been bolstered up by squirearchy and snobocracy. . . . A number of the voters had been bought quietly by the Brewer party. . . . He had kept a straight, steady course all through his political life, but he did not think his opponent had won the seat by fair means. . . . He was thankful to Almighty God that not even his opponents could accuse him of doing wrong." Then Mrs. Nicholls said how "proud she was of the women who had worked so hard in the cause of righteousness." And the proceedings terminated.

It appears that the Parks Committee of the Cardiff Corporation have been selling their hay to a local merchant at £3 2s. 6d. per ton, and that the merchant has been selling hay (probably including what he buys from the Parks Committee) to the Corporation at £4 2s. 6d. per ton! Called upon for an explanation, the Lord Mayor says the Corporation, in order "not to compete with private traders," some time ago resolved that they must sell their hay by tender and buy it by tender." Oh, for that Business Government!

A Newcastle parson has been seeking the views of eminent people on the subject of gambling. Mr. Keir Hardie was of opinion that it proceeds from the "craving for excitement," and suggests, as a substitute, that people should take a more "active part in the politics of the Socialist and Labour movements"! General Baden-Powell wrote that "gambling was like wearing a necktie; a man begins to do it because he sees others doing it, and then it becomes a habit"! Sir Oliver Lodge thought that "the mixing up of money considerations with sport was the vulgar introduction of the inappropriate." And Mr. Alfred Austin, the Poet Laureate, "speaking on a footing of perfect equality to his fellow men," regarded gambling "in every form" with "horror and detestation," and he could "truthfully say that he had never once fallen into this fault." His Majesty the King replied, "through his private secretary," that he "never sent messages to be read at public meetings"! In conclusion, we learn from a local paper that "the reading of these messages gave the greatest pleasure to the congregation." Bless them!

The proprietors of a large brewery send us a circular received by their timekeeper from "M. T. Ryan," of the Dominican Convent, Wicklow, offering him a shilling and a free chance for every ten tickets he sells for a lottery "to aid in defraying the debt on the Convent buildings." The first prize is an "exquisite cameo"; the second, £100; and the third, a "gentleman's gold watch." And the circular came through the post, franked by the authorities! What says the Newcastle parson? And Mr. Keir Hardie, and General Baden-Powell, and Sir Oliver Lodge, and the Poet Laureate?

The Sabbatarian cranks and faddists of Bath signally failed to prevent the renewal of the licence to give cinematograph exhibitions in the local theatre on Sundays; wherefore the heart of the rector is filled with sorrow. According to this rev. gentleman, the persons with whom he "has the honour to be associated" have "not the smallest wish to act as Kill-joys or to thwart the pleasures of the people . . . but they are unanimous in holding that public authority ought to be withheld from Sunday entertainments for profit till the whole policy of these has been studied in its widest aspect." It is a cryptic utterance. Profit has nothing to do with the question. A Sunday entertainment is either good or bad. If it is bad, we are as much against it as every decent-minded and decent-living citizen ought to be; if it is good, we think the public have a right to see it if they want to do so, whether its proprietor gains by it or not. The British Sunday is not the exclusive property of prudes on the prowl, prigs on the prance, and puritans on the preach. It is everybody's day out; the one day in the week when most of us are emancipated from toil; and we take the view that every recreation, entertainment, or pleasure is a good and reasonable thing for that day if it is a good and reasonable thing for any other.

One of the queerest election addresses of which we have any knowledge was published by a purveyor of beer, way up in Barrow. "Fellow Sufferers," said he, "what is the issue now before you? One says the Budget; another says the House of Lords; another Votes for Women; another Home Rule for Ireland; and so on *ad nauseam*. Do not be misled. The real question before the country is Pure Beer. . . . You could do without the House of Lords; you could do without votes for women; you could do without skating rinks, football matches, flying machines, or *Dreadnoughts*; you could even do without Lloyd George; but you could not do without—Bounty's Beautiful Beer." One hopes it isn't all froth, anyway.

Recently the patients of No. 16 Consumptive Ward at Govan Poorhouse, Glasgow, complained of the quality of the food served to them. Unable to obtain satisfaction, they communicated with the Secretary of the Local Government Board at Edinburgh, and the man who undertook the correspondence received the usual stereotyped acknowledgment promising "attention." Twelve days afterwards he received from the Secretary a further note. "I am to inform you," wrote the Secretary, "that having enquired into your complaint the Board see no reason to interfere." Now the point is, What was the nature of this "enquiry"? It was certainly not made by reference to the 26 patients who had signed the requisition. Not one of them was asked a question. They did not even know an enquiry was afoot. We cannot say whether the complaints were justified or not, but it is obvious that for the enquiry to be worth anything at all it should have included some reference to the inmates. What on the face of it seems to have been done is that the Secretary of the Board in Edinburgh referred the complaint to the officers of the Poorhouse in Govan, who had previously taken no notice of it, and on their report alone "saw no reason to interfere." This method is a familiar one in Poor Law administration, and in our view is as wrong and as unsatisfactory as it is familiar. "The pigs get the most of our food," says our informant. If that ever was so, we hope the "enquiry" will at least have served the purpose of arresting the process of converting bad human food into good pork. The officials of Govan Poorhouse ought to have a higher mission in life than the careful dieting of native pig.

There are some phases of Bumble on the one hand and the Local Government Board on the other which we don't understand at all. For once Bumble is blameless, even as we know him at Dover. The glare is on the L.G.B. On his last visit to the Guardians' offices, an auditor from that Department of State (earning £900 a year) threatened to surcharge the Guardians the amount of a penny tram fare paid to an octogenarian inmate, who acted as a messenger between the workhouse and the clerk's office if they continue to pay it. Possibly the auditor argues that because he gets £900 a year and travelling expenses that is no reason why an eighty-year-old messenger should have a free tram ride at the expense of the ratepayers; but as the Guardians have power to vote half-a-crown a week to the old man by formal resolution, and have proceeded to do so, it does not appear that the ratepayers will gain anything by the auditor's notions of economy. Penn'orths of thrift and pounds worth of waste—that is the finance of the Poor Law from beginning to end.

An alleged grievance, as to which the L. & N.W. Railway authorities may have something to say, is brought to our notice by a Lancashire reader. It concerns the "contract tickets" issued by the company in the Manchester district. The complaint is that if one takes a ticket for a year in advance (half-yearly and quarterly tickets cost more in proportion), and by reason of illness, losing a job, or removal, has no use for it during the last six months of the year, a deduction of 25 per cent. is made by the company from what we call the surrender value of the ticket. Thus, supposing one has a £5 ticket (paid for in advance, of course), and after the lapse of six months has no further use for it, the company will only pay him back 37s. 6d. instead of the 50s. which he has paid them. Practically they fine him 12s. 6d. for lending them £2 10s. for six months. It sounds both incredible and extortionate. We shall be glad of an explanation. What says Mr. Churchill?

When we get that Business Government it is on the cards that we may be able to spare money to provide efficient control of, and some measure of wise encouragement for, our sea fisheries. At present the same gentleman, a very admirable man in his way, who is charged with the duty of advising farmers how to grow larger mangels, is supposed (subject to occasional interference from the Admiralty or Board of Trade) to look after the interests of our fishermen in the North Sea and other places. Consequently they are not looked after at all. Here is an industry that brings into the country, at the mere cost of catching, valuable food-stuffs worth millions a year; and the nation cannot (in the view of its trustees) afford to devote to its supervision an up-to-date equipment. In this, as in so much else, we are far behind France and Germany and, we believe, even Japan. At the Sea Fisheries Association meeting, moreover, it was complained that although good fish can be obtained, carriage paid and ready for cooking, at 2½d. per lb., fish forms no part of the ration of soldiers on the Home stations, who spend much of their scant pay in buying two-eyed steaks and similar luxuries. Fish would cost less than meat; and the soldiers would like it once or twice a week. This being so, of course it is not supplied. No wonder someone has written a book called "How we are Governed." It is a subject that needs some explaining.

Mr. Algernon Ashton has been married. We trust that his wife will keep in check his mania for prowling about bury holes and calling our attention to them in the morning papers. Since he broke away from this horrible habit (presumably to go courting) we have enjoyed our eggs and bacon much better. At the back of our mind, however, there has lingered a hidden dread that he might give way again at any moment. We look to Mrs. Ashton to keep his mind otherwise employed, and to give him something better to do.

We have always stood for sex equality in the professions and industries—equal pay for equal work. Consequently, we have protested more than once at attempts on the part of doctors to prevent medical women from competing freely for public and other appointments. Recently at the Park School, Preston, the question of the selection of a medical officer arose. The Board of Education recommended a lady; and the headmistress favoured the suggestion. Thereupon, the local medicos made representations against a lady being appointed, amongst the reasons given being the possibility that she might get access to some of their patients and ultimately divert them from their present advisers. We can understand the feeling of these local practitioners, but public appointments should be made solely on public grounds, and, everything else being equal, sex should be no barrier.

The medical men, by the way, are not letting the political alarmists have it all their own way, even though it be election time. "Poison in the glove" is the latest scare. It comes from Germany. "Many cases of blood-poisoning" are traceable to dyed gloves, says the German authority. But he does not particularise. As a matter of fact, this "spoof" is a very old one; it has been revived at intervals for the past twenty years or more. We never heard of a well-authenticated case of blood-poisoning due to even the lowest priced gloves, although we believe the dye in these is not so "fast" as the wearers at times may be. Clammy-handed people, according to a London expert, will fetch the dye out of the best gloves. But they do not seem to come to any harm. Even if they do, we shall not grieve greatly, for we are not enamoured of the clammy hand.

The pretensions of the medical fraternity are certainly excessive. An inquest was held the other day at Chelsea with reference to the death of a retired army captain. He had suffered from locomotor ataxy for fourteen years, but during the last nine of them he had preferred prayers to prescriptions. A doctor was called to give evidence. Fancy consulting a doctor on the question of the necessity of doctors! However, he admitted that the deceased was "absolutely incurable." The best he could say was that, "with regular medical treatment during the last two or three years, life *might possibly* have been prolonged a year." This is not very convincing, and certainly does not altogether warrant the jury's expression of regret that the medical treatment had not been employed. The only certain result of medical treatment would have been a huge doctor's bill, and the deceased was fully justified in preferring devotional exercises, which were probably more soothing and certainly less expensive.

"Of our kind courtesy," the Rev. E. W. Shepheard-Walwyn, Missioner of the Imperial Sunday Alliance, requests space to argue with us concerning our attitude towards Sabbatarians. The reverend gentleman desires to convince us that the reason he and others oppose Sunday trading, Sunday concerts, Sunday excursions, and so forth is their longing to preserve Sunday as a day of rest in the interests of the physical health of the people, "quite apart from the religious use of the day." Our answer is that when we find "the people" clamouring for the closing of art galleries, the withdrawal of Sunday trains, the prohibition of Sunday concerts, picture shows, and open-air band performances, we will put our hat under our arm and join our reverend friend's procession. Meanwhile we suspect he has designs on our simplicity. With a few exceptions, the only persons who want a puritanical Sunday in England are intolerant and bigoted professional religionists, who, having frightened the people away from church and chapel by cant, humbug, and pharisaism, are trying their hardest to make the British Sunday intolerable by closing every other avenue to healthy recreation and harmless enjoyment. Nevertheless, we thank the reverend gentleman for "writing officially on behalf of the Anglican, Nonconformist and Roman united in the Imperial Sunday Alliance; also as one who privately admires our outspoken witness against real cant and public evils."

Of all the stupid suggestions which have been made for dealing with the political situation, that of Mr. Sidney Low, in *The Times*, easily takes, not only the biscuit, but the bun. He advocates the formation of a neutral Cabinet under Lord Rosebery, who, as everybody except Mr. Sidney Low is well aware, is for all the purposes of active leadership in contemporary politics as dead as mutton.

Mrs. Pecksniff—we suppose that is the name of the matron of the Nottingham Workhouse—has noticed that the feminine inmates of that philanthropic institution sit around the fire on Sundays and gossip one with another instead of going to church. She has therefore reported their heinous conduct to the Guardians, who have ordained and decreed that in future the fire should not be lighted on Sundays till after service. As a method of driving the women into church this may be considered rather a sneezer, and it is even whispered that if freezing does not bring them to a holier state of mind, they will be deprived of their Sunday dinner and sent to bed without their supper. Evidently the Nottingham Guardians cannot perceive the difference between a workhouse and a gaol. Their action is an unreasonable interference with the reasonable liberty of even a pauper.

From Nottingham to Hull is not a far cry, and Beverley, we believe, is some nine miles from Hull. A few days ago an old and destitute woman tramped all those nine miles through the bitter cold and made her way to the nearest workhouse, Sculcoates, to wit. Arriving at the portals, she found that they were not open for the reception of visitors to the casual ward. Wherefore she dragged her weary feet to another Hull "house," there to be refused admission, "for," argued Bumble, "you arrived in the Sculcoates Union first, and thither you must return." Back tramped the old woman to seek rest for her grey head and shivering body in the workhouse at Sculcoates. "No," said Bumble when she appeared there, "you must go back to Hull; that is your place of sojourning." Friendless, foodless, homeless, she again turned her face to the bitter wind and trudged along till she came to the Public Library, where she deliberately smashed a window. "The reason I broke the window," she told the Stipendiary, "was because I was suffering from pleurisy, and if I had stopped out in the streets all night I would have died." Then it was the turn of the Stipendiary to speak. "The Poor Law," said he, "is an absolute farce if people cannot gain admission to the workhouse without being cross-examined as to which workhouse territory they have entered"; which is true, O Cadi. He then "ordered the prisoner to pay the damage or undergo ten days' imprisonment"; which is—well, perhaps after all it is good that people can always get bed and board in this country if they are determined on it. As our copy-book in days far behind us had it, "Perseverance overcomes all difficulties."

Dr. Wynn Westcott makes the astounding statement that a number of women in Bethnal Green do not know their husbands' surnames. It sounds as though it were a case of "Tompkins and I and the girl between," but not so according to Dr. Westcott. He insists upon it that they are married all right, but that "they just marry 'Bill,' and there it ends." This is confirmed by a Bethnal Green clergyman, who points out that, among the poorer classes, "a short courtship is followed by a marriage service, at which the husband writes his name in the Marriage Register. Very likely the woman has not the curiosity to read it." Perhaps because she is "no scholard." Again, it is argued, she has no use for a surname in her daily life. She pays cash for her goods and carries them home. She receives no letters, and never hears her husband spoken of except as "Bill." So far, this is just credible, but when we are asked to believe that many of the free and independent men in Bethnal Green have actually forgotten their own surnames, a little scepticism may be pardoned. Take the case of the workman. It is all very well to say that he is known to his mates and his foreman as "Bill." But in a large factory there must often be more than one of that ilk. In that case, a surname would surely be necessary for distinguishing purposes. No doubt in some cases a nickname is employed, but we refuse to believe that a self-respecting foreman would condescend so far as to keep a register of people called merely Ginger, or Tubby, or Conky.

We are not particularly enamoured of our dear contemporary, the *Daily News*, but for the life of us we do not see much harm in that advice to the rural electors to "never mind whose car takes them to the poll," and to "remember that the ballot is secret." Surely it was legitimate to tell a yokel that even though his employer might take him to the poll in a motor-car, or a private carriage, he was still at liberty to vote how he liked. What candidate would forbid one of his supporters, say, at a quarter to eight, jumping into one of his opponent's traps if he had the chance? We must be just, even to the *Daily News*.

What is this we hear about the annual banquet of the Solihull, King's Heath, and South Birmingham Licensed Victuallers' and Brewers' Protection Society, held at Solihull, a day or two ago? We do not like to give the particulars until they are verified, lest we do injustice to folk concerned. Perhaps someone who was at the banquet will tell us how it went off.

One of three hundred men engaged in the construction of the Clapton Skating Rink had to wait for his wages from noon to ten-past-two on Saturday, "and the consequence was"—he sued in the Shoreditch County Court for 2s. 5d., time-and-a-half for waiting. He didn't get it. Possibly the view of the judge was that he need not have waited. He could have gone home.

Some wiseacre has suggested that in future every adult should be made to set down his politics in the Census. Apart from the fact that it would be a gross infringement of the ballot, we do not see that the returns would be of any more use, or any more trustworthy, than those of religious belief. Even we are not quite sure how we should answer the general question off-hand.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

It was his meeting of creditors, and he was anxious to "carry" a scheme of arrangement, but the assets showed only 6s. 8d. in the £, and the creditors would not accept less than 10s. In vain he pleaded, till in the end he despairingly observed, "Then I suppose I must make up the difference out of my own pocket"!

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—

MR. R. A. ARMITAGE WHO IS DETERMINED THAT THE MANCHESTER POLICE COURT SHALL "TREAT BOTH RICH AND POOR ALIKE"; AND APPROVES HIS ACTION IN SENDING THREE FASHIONABLE WOMEN TO GAOL FOR PLANNED SHOP THEFTS.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—No more biscuits for births, deaths, or marriages, which creep into the wrong column. Much too gruesome to be funny!

OLD WOMEN.—Biscuits are uncompromisingly denied to papers alluding to "old women of both sexes." There are so many of them.

WEDDINGS.—No biscuits for bridegrooms wearing picture hats and crepe de chine. Why shouldn't they?

For advertising: "KIDS *dyed black without colouring the inside,*"

P. & P. CAMPBELL, "THE PERTH DYE WORKS,"

TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Sir Cuthbert and Lady Quilter were greeted with vociferous cheering as they mounted the platform, WHICH DID NOT SUBSIDE FOR SOME MINUTES,"

THE ESSEX AND SUFFOLK NEWS

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Dr. Mond leaves to the nation fifty-six of his OLD MASTERS, THOUGH MRS. MOND WILL HAVE THE USE OF THEM DURING HER LIFE,"!

THE EVENING NEWS

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing: "Cook disengaged. USED TO ABOUT 70 HORSES, UNDERSTANDS GAS ENGINE,"

AN ADVERTISER IN THE *LIVERPOOL ECHO*

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following advertisement: "Do you wish THAT YOU WERE DEAD? *Try 'Bushmills,'"*

"OLD BUSHMILLS" DISTILLERY CO., LTD., MARK LANE, E.C.

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating at a Liberal meeting at Kirton that while "Councillor Bentham was not a Lincolnshire man, his MOTHER *was,*"!

THE REV. J. GRAHAM, OF SCOTTER,

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting an Exchange message from Paris as saying: "The worst that could have been expected has happened, and EVEN WORSE *is now feared,*"!

THE STAR

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing: "Good CLEAN *Business Wanted,* COAL *for preference,*"!

AN ADVERTISER IN THE *DERBY DAILY TELEGRAPH*

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating at a political meeting at Kidderminster that "the foreigners were WALKING OVER *the English by* LEAPS AND BOUNDS,"!

MR. NED WILLIAMS

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that the driver of a hansom "was knocked off his EAT,"

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that the big negro "went WHITER *than the marble on which he was leaning,*"!

BOXING

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "M. Jean Coquelin is the DOG. *For in this remarkable play all the dramatis personæ are* BIRDS,"!

THE DAILY NEWS

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Mr. R. B. Haldane will STAND *at Cloanden, his Perthshire seat, for the next two weeks,"*

THE BIRMINGHAM MAIL

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating under "Chat on Change"! that "the prospectus of the British Provision and Supply Syndicate consists mainly of COUNTING THE PIGS BEFORE THEY ARE HATCHED,"

THE DAILY MAIL

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

WAR OFFICE BRIBERY.

IN WHICH IT IS SHOWN HOW A PARTNER IN A FIRM OF CONTRACTORS RETIRED RATHER THAN COUNTENANCE THE CONTINUED BRIBERY OF OFFICIALS OF THE WAR OFFICE.

In its issue of December 31st, *Surveying and the Civil Engineer*, a recognised authority with surveyors, civil and municipal engineers, architects, and all engaged in constructional work, published a lengthy leading article dealing with our statements (December 25th) as to the bribery of officials at the War Department. Our contemporary does not traverse our statements. It is admitted that the procedure we described is "possible," but as to its "probability," that is another matter. "That the whole subject requires investigation," writes our contemporary, "we only too readily admit," but asks—where is our proof? Our contemporary considers that "the time has surely arrived when public departments, corporations, or similar bodies, shall take into serious consideration the advisability of entering action in the case of charges such as these," and adds, "We await with unusual interest the action of the War Office authorities." Well, we have heard nothing as yet from the War Office authorities. Perhaps they consider themselves justified in ignoring our allegations until we support them by specific proof, and are under the impression that such proof is practically impossible to obtain since the passing of the Prevention of Corruptiion Act, 1906, which makes it penal not only to accept a bribe, but to give one.

Let us see.

Before we go further, we wish to make it perfectly plain what we set out to prove in this article. We are not alleging that we have "a corrupt Public Service"; our references will be limited to a single Department of the Public Service. We are not suggesting that all, or the majority of, the officials of the War Office are corrupt. Our charges are directed against certain members of the War Office, and we have no reason whatever for supposing that the heads of the Department are cognisant of these malpractices. Our allegations are two:—

1. That an important firm of contractors is in the habit of bribing officials of the War Office who are concerned with public contracts.

2. That a member of this firm, having vainly protested against the practice, retired from it rather than be a party to the continuance of practices which mean bringing the offenders within the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1906.

The works in connection with which the bribing of officials has taken place are works still in progress.

Some time ago, a member of the firm to which we are referring became uneasy as to these illicit payments to War Office officials. He had never liked the system but he had persuaded himself that, inasmuch as other firms of standing were in the habit of making these payments, and it would be placing his own firm at serious disadvantage if they refused to follow suit, and, moreover, as the profits they were making on their War Office jobs, owing to the keenness of competition, were very small, they were justified in doing what they would very much rather not have done. Whatever the force of this argument, and it is one that is common among business men having dealings with the Public Departments, the partner in question was not able to stifle his scruples, and ultimately decided to tell his partners that either the firm must drop the practice, or he must retire from it. This letter naturally led to discussion between the partners, but whilst the writer of it was unable to satisfy his partners that they were not justified in doing what they did, they, in turn, could not convince him that an honourable man could be a party to these illicit payments. Accordingly, he intimated by letter to his partners that if their decision was final, if they insisted upon continuing these payments, he must retire. In this letter, he refers not only to his decision, but goes on to speak of the terms of retirement which he considers fair. With that part of the letter the public has no concern, and, therefore, we print below only the first portion of it which deals with the partner's decision. Here it is:—

GENTLEMEN,—

If the triennial contracts are continued after the (date given) *or notice to discontinue is not given by that date, I object to remain a party to such immoral procedure as the continual bribery of officials concerned in adjusting the schedule under which this contract was obtained, as it is quite unnecessary to continue with such a contract that requires dishonesty to make it successful or to pay, and wish to be immediately gazetted from partnership. . . . .*

Yours truly,

The letter speaks for itself. The firm remained obdurate and the partner with whose letter we are now dealing was duly gazetted out of the business.

We are prepared to give those who have the right to ask for it the name of the War Office official most frequently concerned in arranging these bribery payments, and also the name of the foreman who was in the habit of intimating to the firm the sums required to meet the payments. And we affirm that evidence is, or until recently was, in the office of the firm of the payment of numerous large sums, extending over considerable periods of time.

But what we desire to know is why it should be left to a weekly journal to direct the attention of the responsible Government to these things? We do not, of course, suggest that Mr. Haldane—profound philosopher and erudite lawyer though he be—is in a position to detect these frauds, even though they be perpetrated under his very nose. So long as our present Party system lasts, and we have a professional politician—usually a lawyer—at the head of each of the great spending departments, it will be an easy matter for unscrupulous subordinates to fool and hoodwink him. But we do protest against the scandalous practice of pitchforking social and political favourites and protégés into all the other responsible and lucrative positions. First we had the Earl of Portsmouth as Mr. Haldane's right-hand man; then Lord Lucas; whilst as financial secretary we began with Mr. T. R. Buchanan, M.P.—another barrister—followed by the youthful F. D. Acland, whose qualification for the post consisted of his having been a Junior Examiner at the Education Office! Is not it time the farce were ended?

When the condition of things at the War Office disclosed by our revelations has been remedied, we shall be happy to put the heads of other departments of the State upon the scent of similar scandals. In the meantime, we continue to sigh for that Business Government.

TRIVIAL TALES.

BY "RETLAW."

II.—THE UNSEEN EYE.

I.

Seeing that human nature is what it is, there was, perhaps, better reason for enmity than amity between James Strecker and Serl Grimbraid. To be rivals in love were alone sufficient. Add to that, rivalry for the esteem of their employer, upon whose good opinion depended the realisation or the wrecking of their fondest hopes, and it will be admitted that little or nothing was wanting to make them bitter foes.

Jonathan Harley, sole-surviving partner of the old-fashioned banking firm of Rudwick, Rudwick and Harley, accepted them both tentatively as suitors to his daughter's hand; but he had laid it down that the measure of their individual success in his business should be the measure of their success in love.

"My daughter," he was wont to say, "shall marry the one who promises to make the most successful man of business. The man that serves me best will make the best husband for my daughter—and he shall have her."

Grudgingly conscious of the superior physical and intellectual attributes of his rival, Grimbraid had come to the conclusion that only chance, or some scheme of his own devising, could gain him the prize. Far from being deeply in love, he merely looked upon Jonathan Harley's daughter as a part of the stake which he meant to win, fairly if possible, foully if necessary.

Like so many whose ambition exceeds their talents, Grimbraid was one of those dangerous characters who make up for their lack of ability by an excess of unscrupulous cunning. Within his plump and unctuous person beat an evil heart; behind his bland blue eyes dwelt a mind, unexercised as yet in positive wickedness, but ready to disregard all sentiments of honour and all considerations of humanity should occasion arise.

Days and weeks of brooding familiarised the man with the idea that the simplest solution of the problem was—to get rid of his rival; and contempt for the original horror of the notion gradually followed, until his one anxious thought was, how to devise some plan whereby his purpose might be effected without the faintest shade of suspicion falling upon himself. To murder is the easiest thing in the world; it is to escape justice that is difficult; and Grimbraid conceived, considered and discarded scheme after scheme without hitting upon one which promised safety in addition to success.

Meanwhile, James Strecker continued to find increasing favour in the eyes of his employer; and, what was more, he fancied that when he last saw Mabel her manner had suggested, lightly, but unmistakably, that she was not altogether indifferent to him. Grimbraid, who was also present, was as quick as his rival to notice the slight turn in the scale, which hitherto had been held with perfect poise between them; and he realised that prompt action alone could remove the bias of the turning beam.

The same night he laid his plans.

II.

Three miles from Darkham, and in the midst of a wide stretch of rabbit-haunted heath, stood a lonely coppice, through which passed an unfrequented track that wound irregularly to the distant coast. Innumerable short and sturdy oaks spread their horizontal boughs above the dense brushwood, which had not echoed to the woodman's axe for many seasons.

Towards this solitary spot, one calm and glowing evening, James Strecker, with his inevitable camera in hand, directed his impatient steps. That morning he had received a strange, incoherent letter purporting to come from Mabel, in which she begged him, for love of her, to be at Deepling Copse an hour after sunset, and praying him, above all, to guard against the possibility of their meeting becoming known. It was to render her a service, she concluded, important beyond all measure.

When Strecker reached the margin of the copse the lower rim of the descending sun was touching the horizon. His impatience had brought him into the rendezvous an hour earlier than was necessary. He looked back upon the way he had come. Not a human being was in sight; but the beauty of the scene filled him with those nameless feelings of ecstatic admiration that the lover of nature alone enjoys Even his anxiety to know the meaning of his sweetheart's letter could not lessen the peace that filled his soul, as, with one long last look at the glowing west, he turned and paced musingly along the grassy track that wound through the centre of the copse.

Roused from his reflections by a sudden rustle, he raised his eyes. Directly in his path, and within two paces, stood Serl Grimbraid, the level rays of the setting sun shining full upon his face, pale and distorted with murderous passion. His hands, grasping some weapon, were held high above his head, and, with one of those instantaneous flashes of insight that sometimes come in moments of deadly peril, James Strecker grasped the meaning of it all. He raised his hand, encumbered with the camera, to ward off the bow that even then was descending, but the heavy stake broke through the weak and unprepared defence, and struck him senseless to the ground.

It had all happened in a breath—the rustle, the vain attempt at self-protection, and the deadly stroke—and as the sun's red rim dropped suddenly below the verge, as though frightened by the awful tragedy it had witnessed, Serl Grimbraid, with averted eyes, finished his horrid task.

III.

The disappearance of James Strecker seemed inexplicable to the inhabitants of Darkham. No defalcations were discovered, and a careful examination of his private papers disclosed no reasons for his evanishment. For three days Mr. Jonathan Harley grieved and wondered, Mabel wept, and Serl Grimbraid wore an expression of the deepest sorrow.

However, on the morning of the fourth day it suddenly occurred to the stolid police-inspector who watched over the peace and morals of Darkham, that an organised search of the surrounding country might not be amiss. Three hours after the decision had been come to, the battered corpse of James Strecker was found.

* * * *

The deputy-coroner sat in state in the best room of the Red Lion Inn. The corpse had been viewed by the jury, who, to a man, had loved and respected the youth whose remains they had shudderingly identified.

The police described in precise terms the finding of the body. Mr. Harley and Serl Grimbraid, both evidently much affected, stated when last they had seen the deceased. Other evidence of no particular purport having been taken, the coroner summed up. In his opinion there was no doubt that murder for the purpose of robbery was the explanation of the tragedy. The young man, he suggested, had strolled out to take some snapshots in Deepling Copse; some brutal tramp had watched his movements, and had fallen upon him and dealt him his death blow.

The murderer had next stripped his victim of the valuables and money he had upon him, and made good his escape with the booty. It rested with the police to bring the culprit to justice; but all the jury were required to do was to come to an unanimous opinion as to how the deceased came by his untimely death.

Without retiring, the jury pronounced their verdict—murder by some person or persons unknown.

"Not unknown!" cried a female voice—and Mabel Harley rushed into the room. Hurrying over to the coroner she handed him a photographic print, yet damp from the fixing-bath.

"I developed the partly-exposed roll of films found in poor James's camera. The last picture he took was the portrait of his murderer; and there he stands!" she cried, pointing an accusing finger at Serl Grimbraid, whose face had turned a ghastly hue.

* * * *

The camera, which could not ward off the murderous blow, had registered the crime, and brought the murderer to justice.

THOSE WICKED COMMISSIONERS.

Here is a terrible story, which reaches us from a Fulham reader:—

> At the end of this road, there is a piece of ground by the river, belonging to the *Ecclesiastical Commissioners*. To-day, *Sunday*, we have had carts laden with brick rubbish, etc., passing through the road to this piece of ground all day long; perhaps a few lines in your paper will prevent a repetition next Sunday of such a fine example from such a body.

We must call attention to the matter when Parliament reassembles.

THE RISE OF RENTS IN TOWNS.

By Joseph Hyder.

A hundred years ago four-fifths of the population lived in country districts. At the present time the figures are reversed, and four out of every five live in the towns. While, therefore, country land has declined in value, as many a country squire woefully laments, the value of urban land has shown a steady and continuous rise. Great, however, as has been the "unearned decrement" in the case of rural land in the last thirty years, there is reason to believe that the "unearned increment" of the towns has more than counterbalanced it.

London.

The enormous growth in the population of London has necessarily sent up the rent of the 119 square miles which are comprised in the Metropolitan area. Every year this population increases by the population of a considerable town, and Mr. Sidney Webb has calculated from the growth of the gross rateable value that the increment which represents land apart from all buildings is £160,000 per annum. In other words, the saleable value of the 119 square miles rises by about £4,000,000 every year. The site of the Royal Exchange is estimated to be worth £1,250,000. It was bought for £7,400 after the Great Fire of London, and a hundred years before that it was acquired for £3,000. A site in Cornhill was sold some years ago for a sum that works out at the rate of £3,000,000 for an acre. The little plot of a few square yards at the back of the Royal Exchange upon which stands the statue to George Peabody, the philanthropist, cost £10,000. A house in Lombard Street, the property of the Drapers' Company, was let at £28 a year in 1668. In 1877 the site was let at £2,600 a year. Nor are these high land values confined to the crowded square mile of the City proper. The value of land in the Trafalgar Square area was certainly low at the comparatively recent time when the neighbouring church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields still merited its descriptive name. According to the prospectus that was issued when the Carlton Hotel Company was formed, the splendid corner site of the Grand Hotel, facing the Square, cost at the rate of nearly £4,000,000 an acre. When John Russell got a grant from Edward VI. of Seven Acres or Long Acre and the Covent Garden of the recently dispossessed monks of Westminster, the district was almost devoid of houses. His descendant draws £10,000 a year as ground rent for the site of the Drury Lane Theatre alone, and more than twice as much for his monopoly of the Covent Garden Market.

The Grosvenor Estate.

In the time of Queen Elizabeth there was a Crown farm of 430 acres in Pimlico yielding a rent of £21 per annum. It has been covered by the tenants upon the 99 years' leasing system. The late Duke, in contradicting a statement that it was worth £400,000 a year, mournfully confessed that it was "only worth about half as much." Since then many leases have fallen in, and amongst these is the well-known Gorringe site in the Buckingham Palace Road, which showed a rise in the ground rent from £395 to £4,000, in addition to a fine or premium of £50,000, which is equal to nearly £2,000 per annum more. A recent case showing the rise in the value of London land is the ground rent of Selfridge's Stores, namely, £10,000 per annum.

The Portman Estate.

In the year of the Great French Revolution the Baker Street and Edgware Road portion of the Portman Estate was developed, and in March, 1888, the leases fell in. The aggregate rise in the value of the land was a million and a quarter pounds. This estate was bought by a Mr. Portman, so that his family might have fresh milk when he was up in town attending Parliament.

The Kentish Town Estate.

Another London example of the transition from agricultural values to building values is the case of the Kentish Town Estate. This was the Prebendal Manor of Cantelows. In 1768 this was tenanted by a Mr. Fitzroy, on a 21 years' lease. Mr. Fitzroy's brother, the Duke of Grafton, was Prime Minister, and an Act was easily passed vesting the estate in the then tenant in consideration of the payment of £300 a year to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's. This estate extends from St. Giles' parish through St. Pancras and Camden Town to Highgate. The value of this land to-day must be worth nearly 1,000 times as much as the rent that was agreed on only 141 years ago.

Holborn.

In 1552 the Churchwardens of St. Clement Danes bought twelve houses and land in Holborn from William Breton. They paid £160 for this property. The annual income derivable from it now is no less than £7,000, and the money is applied to the support of an almshouse with extensive grounds, a large grammar school, and a dispensary.

Dulwich College Estate.

The Dulwich College Estate is an example of the growth of land values in the suburbs of London. When Edgar Alleyn, an Elizabethan actor, died he bequeathed a stretch of country land surrounding Dulwich Village for the support of twelve poor scholars. By the expansion of London that land is probably worth £1,000,000 to-day. Three plots of land were bought in 1629 and 1643 for Campden's Charity at Shepherd's Bush. They were then worth £23 a year. In 1881 they were worth £3,600 a year, and the construction of the Central Tube Railway has since then sent up land values by leaps and bounds in that district.

Liverpool.

In 1800 the population of the Liverpool area was less than 90,000. To-day it is 746,000. The growth of its population in numbers and wealth has been accompanied by a corresponding growth in the value of the land.

In 1635, Lord Molyneux bought the Lordship of Liverpool for £450, and the Corporation took a 999 years' lease of 1,000 acres in the Lord Street district at a fixed annual rent of £30. In 1856 this was valued at £50,000 per annum. In 1882 the Corporation Estate was assessed at £740,000, and to-day it yields an average of £100,000.

The Parliament Fields were assessed as agricultural lands at £40 per annum. Part of them were sold to the City for £100,000 by the Earl of Sefton, and he now draws £10,000 a year in ground rents from the remainder that was farm land sixty years ago. In 1847 the Corporation bought 53 acres of land adjoining the Newsham Estate for £20,000, or at the rate of 1s. 8d. a year. Land in that district to-day fetches from 8s. to 10s. a yard.

Manchester.

In 1839 the rateable value of Manchester was £478,618. In 1908 it was £4,234,129. In 1596, Sir Nicholas Mosley bought the manorial rights for £3,500. In 1845, a Mosley received £200,000 from the newly incorporated Borough of Manchester for what was left of those rights. The Overseers still receive £10 a year in consideration of 44 acres of land over which the people had rights of pasture 300 years ago, but which are covered with bricks and mortar to-day. In 1833 the Improvements Committee bought 222 yards of land in the Parsonage at £2 a yard, 55 yards in Lower Mosley Street at 30s. a yard, and seven yards in Fountain Street for £30. Eight years ago they paid £123 a yard for land in Corporation Street. From 1849 to 1855 the Markets Committee bought land for the Smithfield Market at from £2 15s. to £6 14s. a yard. They lately bought adjoining land at from £20 to £35 a yard.

Some land in Cross Street was sold in 1881 for £20,080 for 334 square yards. In 1900 it was resold for double that price. In 1630, Humphrey Booth vested two meadows near Manchester in trust for charitable purposes. They were worth £19 a year. In 1901 the annual income from that land was £4,544. Forty years ago the Trafford Estates were worth £90,000. Twelve years ago the Trafford Park Estates Co. bought them for £900,000. The hundred acres of the old racecourse were worth about £50,000 before the Ship Canal was begun. The Ship Canal Company paid £262,500 for them for docks.

Edinburgh.

Prior to 1760, land to the north of the old Nor' Loch (now Princes Street Gardens) was feued at about 10s. per acre per annum. In 1766 it was feued to the City of Edinburgh at £7 per acre. In the next forty years it was let for building the new town at £20 per acre. In 1905, sites in Princes Street were estimated at a capital value of £1,000 per foot of frontage. A quarter of an acre having 60 feet of frontage was sold for £100,000. In 1772 this same site was feued at £4 13s. 4d. annual rent, in addition to a lump sum of £153. In 1878 the Edinburgh Royal Asylum bought from the Cluny trustees 50 acres of hill ground, agricultural and pastoral, for £18,500 or £370 per acre. In 1886 another ten acres were acquired from them at a feu duty of £25 per acre, or a capital cost of £625 per acre. In 1804, land was feued at £4 per acre along Leith Walk, which connects Edinburgh with Leith. To-day these sites fetch from £40 to £300 per acre per annum.

WHAT IS THE BUSINESS ENCYCLOPÆDIA?

You may have heard something about the Business Encyclopædia; it may even have occurred to you that the Business Encyclopædia might be of service to you in the continual difficulties and perplexities of your Business day, and to equip you with that systematised and Expert Business knowledge without which you cannot hope to make your mark in the Business world.

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These are, indeed, the things a practical and sound knowledge of which means, sooner or later, to the young man who has acquired it—promotion, achievement, success, But it must be expert knowledge. And

It Is Expert Knowledge.

The Business Encyclopædia is edited by Mr. W. S. M. Knight of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-law, who is alos responsible for all the Legal information it furnishes. This embraces sound legal advice on business and personal matters, the legal aspect of all the relationships of life, restrictions on special Trades, regulations under the Factories Act, licensing restrictions, regulations applying to retail dealers, etc., etc.

Amongst the contributors who have dealt with the more modern aspects of business are a list of men who are at the very top in the business world—men who have built up the businesses they represent, in some cases from small and insignificant shops into the magnificent affairs they are to-day. Amongst these business expert contributors are Mr. Richard Burbidge (Managing Director, Harrods', Ltd.), Mr. S. J. Waring (Managing Director, Waring and Gillow, Ltd.), Mr. J. Murray Allison (Advertisement Manager, *The Times*), Mr. Laurence R. Dickees, M.Com. F.C.A. (late Professor of Commerce, London University), Mr. Conrad Fry (Director, J. S. Fry and Sons, Ltd.), etc., etc.

For The Older Business Man.

The use of the Business Encyclopædia, especially of those useful sections contributed by these well-known Business Men, will be found fruitful in new Business ideas. In the Business world a new idea is often the fore-runner of fortune. And the older Business man, who sees his younger rivals springing up all around him will, with this incomparable guide at hand acquire the confidence necessary to act on his own ideas, and thus keep abreast of the times, and ahead of his competitors in the Business world. The seasoned Business man knows that you cannot stand still in Business. You must go on—from one step to another, and from one success to another.

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"I must congratulate you upon the production of such an excellent work. The volumes are full of information, and I feel sure they will be found to be a necessity in every commercial house. Now that we see the 'Encyclopædia,' the marvel is that such a work has not been thought of in this country before."

A CLERK'S OPINION.

Mr. G. W. Read, Clerk, Fortnam Road, London, N.: "I never made a more gratifying purchase. I regard the 'Business Encyclopædia' as a most profitable investment, and I very much regret that such a work did not come my way earlier in life."

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The Publishers have compiled a handsomely illustrated book—"THE PRACTICAL BOOK"—which will be sent to you POST FREE. It contains information of priceless value to the man who means to succeed. It will tell you all about the "Business Encyclopædia," and how it can be obtained for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance to be paid by small monthly payments.

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LAW IN GUERNSEY.

AN ENGLISHMAN ARRESTED WITHOUT A WARRANT AND TRIED BY A POLICEMAN.

We have recently had something to say about the administration of the Law in Jersey and the straits to which Englishmen are put who find themselves in that Island in dispute with somebody belonging to it. Mr. J. F. Morris Fawcett, of East Sheen, gives us his experience of Guernsey, from which it seems that there is little to choose between the laws of the one Island and the other, both being monstrous from the English point of view.

It appears that Mr. Fawcett, who was staying in Guernsey, sent to Brice's Livery Stables at St. Sampson's to order a cab. He stated the number of persons who were to use it, and the amount of baggage it was required for. The vehicle sent was quite inadequate, and on his way to the boat Mr. Fawcett stopped at the livery stables and told the manageress, Mrs. Brice, how stupid it was to send such a thing, and the great discomfort to which he and his party had been put by the blunder of the stables. On arriving at the wharf Mr. Fawcett was met by Mr. Brice, who had been informed by telephone of the visit to the stables, and who accused Mr. Fawcett of grossly insulting his wife, saying he should not leave the Island until he had apologised. As Mr. Brice continued to hector and threaten, Mr. Fawcett told him to "go to hell." Mr. Brice then called a policeman, who asked if Mr. Fawcett would apologise. Mr. Fawcett said there was nothing to apologise about, whereupon the policeman told him that unless he did apologise he would not be allowed to go by the boat. He was prevented from going on board and taken to the Police Office. Mr. Brice was not able to say what insulting words had been used, but his charge was accepted as true by the sergeant in charge, who observed, "You're a nice sort of person to come to Guernsey and insult people. I'll teach you how to behave. You are not fit to go about alone. Next time you go about alone you had better have a keeper." The upshot of it was that fearing he would lose the boat, Mr. Fawcett said that rather than upset his arrangements he would apologise. The sergeant insisted upon a written apology, which was given in the following words: "I apologise to Mrs. Brice for anything I may have said of which she disapproved."

Mr. Fawcett went to the Chief Constable and explained matters, complaining of the treatment of the police, but the Chief Constable said he must uphold his subordinates.

On reaching England Mr. Fawcett addressed a letter to the Bailiff of Guernsey, describing the treatment to which he had been subjected, and observing that it seemed to him incredible that in any place of civilisation it could be lawful to arrest a man without a warrant, and without a shred of evidence of any offence committed by him, and being arrested, to have the case tried and decided by a policeman.

This letter was sent on to the Attorney-General of Guernsey, who said that the matter should be enquired into. The next communication received by Mr. Fawcett was from the Controller, Mr. Arthur W. Bell, who enclosed a copy of a letter he had received from the Constables of St. Peter Port, concerning the affair, who were good enough to say that in their opinion "the police in no way exceeded their duty," and that Mr. Fawcett's statements were grossly exaggerated. Mr. Fawcett then requested Mr. Bell to obtain for him the opinion of the Crown Officers as to his treatment, and he wrote again to the Attorney-General, who, on November 5th, informed him that "the police have the power of arresting without a warrant, and were fully justified in doing so if your conduct and language on the pier were such as to create a disturbance." It had never been suggested until then that Mr. Fawcett's action had threatened a disturbance of the peace, and in his final letter to the Attorney-General he tells him that "had the incident occurred in a civilised community I should certainly have sought a remedy in the Civil Courts, but in view of the decision of the Judicial Court in the case of Houston against Mourand, I do not think you can expect any sane person, not being a Channel Islander, to bring an action in your Court."

Their ways are really very curious in these Channel Islands.

We have had several letters from persons competing for the prizes recently offered by the Hampstead Skating Palace. Our correspondents complain that the prizes are of nothing like the value promised in the official announcement.

"THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL AND A WORKMAN."

We are getting a little tired of this heading, but if we use it frequently the blame is with the L.C.C.

Mr. F. J. Parminter has put before us his complaint against the Council, which seems to us a very substantial one. Parminter entered the service of the Council, on what is called its temporary staff, in September, 1903. Early in January last he was informed that his services would not be required after January 8th. "I have to inform you," wrote Mr. Bradfield, "that the Council have decided to transfer an officer upon the permanent staff to take charge of your district."

It was not suggested that Parminter had been guilty of any fault. In fact, he had not been censured on any occasion during his six years' service with the Council.

It is true that Parminter was on what is called the "temporary" staff, which makes it possible to get rid of a man at a week's notice. But is it fair to treat a good man in this way?

The Council required three references when Parminter entered its service: in accordance with its practice, it refused to give a reference when he left it. Is that fair?

More: it was the practice to hand Parminter £3 on April 1st, which on March 31st of the following year he returned to the Department, to receive it again next day. The object of what seems a curious practice was to keep him in funds for petty disbursements. These disbursements are settled every week, but unless an advance was made by the Council in some such way as that indicated he would be out of pocket during the week. Hence the £3.

Parminter's notice expired on January 8th, when in ordinary course he would have settled up his money matters with the Department, taken his salary, and returned the £3. But not content with that, Mr. Bradfield, who is the head of his Department, writes him on Jan 6 as follows:

> You, I believe, understand that it is necessary for you to attend at the Comptroller's Department (Education Office), and pay in the moneys you hold belonging to the Council. . . . I have to tell you that it is essential that the matter should be cleared up not later than to-morrow, Friday. . . . I do not want to have the matter referred to the Solicitor.

As a matter of fact the Department owed Parminter a good deal more than he owed the Department, yet Mr. Bradfield talks about a solicitor and insinuates that Parminter has dishonest intentions. It does not seem to us that this is the proper way for the Council to treat its servants, even when they are only on the "temporary" staff.

A Young "John Bull"-ite.—*Master Phillips.*

THE MUSICAL EDUCATOR.

A Library of Instruction in Music.

The aim of "The Musical Educator" is to supply, in compact form, a complete Musical Edu ation. Each department of musical knowledge is undertaken by an expert, and the work is an authoritative guide on everything relating to Music and Singing. The illustrations are particularly valuable; they portray the different instruments, attitudes in playing, &c., and include Five beautiful Frontispieces, and Reproductions of valuable Photographs.

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MARK HAMBOURG.
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"The Teaching of Singing."

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"The Art of Conducting."

The titles of a few of the sections are appended; every section is written by an expert.

Course on Voice Training, Singing, and Solfeggio. Course on the Pianoforte. On the Violin. On Harmonium and American Organ. On the Organ. Lessons on Scientific Basis of Music. On Rudiments of Music. Course on Harmony and Counterpoint. Lessons in Canon and Fugue. Lessons in Musical Forms, Analysis and Composition. Articles on the Instruments used in Orchestras and in Bands. History of Music. Articles on Children's Music and Musical Drill, on Choir Training and Conducting. Article on Congregational Music. Biographical Dictionary of Musicians. Article on Musical Degrees. Nationality in Music.

Appreciations.

Sir J. Frederick Bridge, Mus. Doc., Organist at Westminster Abbey:

"The 'Musical Educator' is full of useful information plainly set forth. The musical illustrations are excellent."

Mr. Chas. J. Wisyard, 29, Aberdeen Terrace, Tyne Dock:

"I find it of inestimable value in the education of my children, and also of great benefit to myself. The lessons are so graded that anyone should be able to make himself efficient by their study."

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DR. ANDREW WILSON'S REMARKABLE BOOK.

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A work that justifies its claim to be a complete guide to the attainment and preservation of health—as well as a practical teacher of the nature and symptoms of all diseases—is a work to be hailed as a household friend. Such a book is "The Modern Physician," by Dr. Andrew Wilson.

The section devoted to Hygiene, otherwise known as preventive medicine, includes the full exposition of the laws of health, and special attention is devoted to physical culture. The important subject of

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is fully treated and lavishly illustrated.

Since a knowledge of the various and marvellous functions of the body in health is necessary to a due understanding of the body when the various organs become deranged by disease, descriptions of every part of the frame will be found in "The Modern Physician," the skeleton muscles, digestive system, heart and lungs, brain and nervous system, organs of sense, skin, kidneys, etc., etc., being fully explained and illustrated.

In this connection the coloured "mannikins" or "dummies," in which the various organs overlap each other precisely as they do in the human body, are very useful in making the reading matter clear.

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Volume V. deals entirely with the Health and Diseases of Women. It will be found useful to mothers who wish their daughters to grow up into healthy women. Midwifery and the diseases of infants and children are fully treated.

There is a section devoted to Invalid Cookery, and a complete series of physicians' prescriptions will be found both reliable and useful.

While not claiming to be a complete substitute for the doctor, this work will save its cost in doctor's bills before it has been in use for a month.

Two Opinions.

Mr. Wm. Webb, 102, Queensland Street, Liverpool.

"'The Modern Physician' ought to be in every household in the land, and it is certainly no fault of yours should it not be so, for the price at which it is published is reasonable, and the terms of subscription exceptionally easy."

Mr. A. H. Hart, 18, Canbury Park Road, Kingston-on-Thames:

"Three things especially impressed me: The up-to-date character of the work; the simplicity of the language used; and its practical value. It is creditable alike to Editor and Publisher.

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The only Complete Edition of Balzac's works ever issued in English.

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Balzac saw the good and the bad mingling together in the diverse complications of actual life, and he faithfully recorded what he saw.

He must include the immoral as a portion; only a small portion, not more than we all trust it is in life. So it is well to have the whole of Balzac, that the heights and depths of his genius may be sounded, and that we may share in, and profit by, every phase of his wide outlook on life, and his noble and pitiful readings of its mysteries.

Yes, to do this, we must have what has been hitherto unattainable in England—the whole of Balzac.

The issue in English of the only complete edition of the works of Balzac by the Caxton Publishing Company is, therefore, an event the importance of which is fully understood by the book-buyer who has knowledge of book-values.

Type, binding, and paper have all been specially chosen in a style befitting the definitive edition of a standard author.

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HOW TO MAKE FOOD CHEAP.

ANSWER—BY TAXING CORN.

One of our readers takes us to task for our "Imaginary Interview" with Mr. Chamberlain; and as he proceeds to show us how to cheapen the food supplies of the people, we feel bound to publish his letter. It will be seen that all that is necessary is to keep out the cheap foreign corn for the benefit of our Colonies, and trust to the competition of the foreign corn to keep down the price of the Colonial corn! Clear as mud!

> You have, I am sure, thousands of Unionist readers, and no doubt most of them will feel that it is a gross injustice to Mr. Chamberlain to attribute to him the things the interviewer suggests, and to appropriate his own proper and well-known ideas—that of allowing the free importation of raw material and those articles which we want but cannot produce, and taxing those which we can make for ourselves.
>
> If the John Bull League cannot see that by taxing foreign corn and thereby stimulating extra production, not in England (our small front garden), but in our Colonies (our large back garden), that corn and bread will be cheaper, and that until the price of corn falls, by competition of foreign and Colonial produce, to the minimum, I need not bother about desiring to join the League.

WHO ARE THEY?

Here is a remarkable letter, selected from the many which reach us daily:—

> The Earth, January, 1910.
>
> Being an ardent admirer of JOHN BULL, I herewith provide you with a bit of free copy on police methods. My pal and myself, after being remanded for a week at Brentford, escaped simply because there was no one there to stop us. That was on January 15th, 1 p.m. Since then, dressed (and appearance) just as we were, we have been going about London, etc., and have already been within three yards or less of the men "after us." All this while, however, the police have been bullying and threatening two lady friends of ours, who, needless to say, we kept in total ignorance of our whereabouts and our doings, and we are and have been too stony-broke. No wonder murders go unsolved, etc.
>
> You will find, on enquiry, what I tell you is gospel.—
> Yours truly, PETER MURRAY.

Gospel according to Peter—Murray!

WHY SHE DECLINED.

A BALLAD OF ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

"Oh, may I be your valentine?"
The anxious Johnny said;
The maiden he was talking to
All gently dropped her head.

"Oh, do vouchsafe me a reply
To this request of mine!"
He urged his plea again, "Oh, may
I be your valentine?"

The maiden fair she turned away,
Her head still bent so low;
Until at last she had to speak,
And then she murmured "No."

It came upon him with a shock;
He cried, amazed, "Eh, what?
You cannot mean the thing you say—
Will you accept me not?"

And then she said, "I'm sorry, sir,
But, faith, I must decline."
He dashed away a tear. "Why can't
I be your valentine?"

She said, "I own I like nice cards,
The pretty, comfy, snuggly ones!
But you can't be my valentine—
I never could stand ugly ones!"

RICARDO.

ENGINE-DRIVING.

SUGGESTIONS BY A MEDICAL MAN.

An express train, or, for the matter of that, any train, has, just as a liner or a tramp steamer, to have a skipper.

As a medical man, who has for several years had to do with railway affairs, I have had many arguments on the question of engine drivers.

I contend, although many railway directors and officials have disagreed with me, that the driver, at any rate of an express engine, should be a man who has had special training, who has "brains," is an expert engineer, and who must, in the majority of cases, be drawn from the "better" classes.

When I say that, I mean from the same class of man, as it were, as the captain of a liner. He is not, as a rule, a man who has risen from the position of an ordinary "A. B.," why should we daily risk our lives in trains driven by men who have practically in all cases been engine-cleaners? Men who, although most worthy and able in their way, have not had the education and the training, or do not possess the quality of rapid cerebration (that is, the capability of thinking and deciding rapidly in an emergency), which you find in the man drawn from the better classes. I am certain that rapid cerebration is the most important qualification for a man in such a responsible position as the driver of an express train—and I am further certain that one does not find this faculty, except in rare cases, in men of the working class.

Train your engine-drivers thoroughly, take them from the same class as you take your mercantile officers—pay them three times the salary the present-day driver gets, and your accidents will not occur except by reason of some flaw or weakness in the *materiel* of the train itself. Most of the bad accidents of the last few years would not have occurred if the drivers had not made unwitting, but none the less positive, mistakes.

OUR WEEKLY BALLOT SCHEME.

FOR FIFTY HELPERS FOR "JOHN BULL" AT TWO GUINEAS A WEEK EACH.

Readers are aware that, until the end of last year we were in the habit of balloting every week for 100 *readers of* JOHN BULL *who, in return for a payment of a Guinea, would devote their spare time for one week to furthering the sale of this journal. These readers were selected in the following manner: Each copy of* JOHN BULL, *as will be seen, contains on its cover a distinctive number, and every week one hundred of such numbers were drawn by the Publishers and published on page* iii *of our cover, and the holders of copies containing such numbers were requested to send us their names and addresses. We then invited them to sign a form agreeing to use their best endeavours in their available time, for one week, to push our sales, and upon being informed that they had done so we forwarded them a cheque for One Guinea each. It was necessary to go through this formality to avoid the law of Lotteries, and on the whole the scheme worked well—those who could not personally spare the time being invited to pass the work on to any deserving persons with whom they were acquainted, and to whom we made the payments instead.*

It was frequently represented to us, however, that the payment of One Guinea scarcely compensated for the trouble and time of distributing specimen copies, and otherwise complying with the terms of the arrangement, and in these circumstances we have varied the scheme by going back to what was the original number of canvassers, namely, fifty, and increasing the payment from One Guinea to Two Guineas.

The scheme, therefore, now is, that every week fifty numbers will be published, drawn from those appearing on the cover of each issue, and to each of the holders of a copy with one of such numbers we shall be prepared to make a payment of Two Guineas, in return for his or her services in pushing our sales for one week.

The fifty numbers drawn in respect of last week's issue will be announced in JOHN BULL *dated February 26th (published on February 24th), and those in respect of this week's issue on March 5th, and all claims in respect of them must reach us within seven days from those dates.*

The numeral "0" in front of a number may be disregarded, as it comes up automatically at regular intervals by the working of the numbering machine.

A letter or postcard sent to-day is all that is necessary to consult Mr. Sandow.

YOU CAN SECURE PERFECT HEALTH

WITHOUT TAKING MEDICINE.

A letter posted to-day will bring free of charge a full explanation of Mr. Sandow's remarkably successful Nature Treatment which is equally effective for members of both Sexes at any age from 5 years to 85 years and over.

Women and children are included in this offer to consult Mr. Sandow.

That it is possible for wellnigh every person, irrespective of age, not only to keep in a condition of absolute fitness, but also to recover perfect health when attacked by illness or suffering from one of the numerous complaints common to everyday life, without the aid of medicine, by a simple and pleasant means, is a statement which may sound really too good to be true.

Yet the fact remains, proved beyond doubt, that there are to-day thousands upon thousands of people who stand in the unique and happy position of being their own health-makers, the great majority of whom perform all that is necessary to this end in their own homes, who took Mr. Sandow's advice, having consulted him upon such illnesses as nervous troubles, indigestion or constipation, or other of the many complaints amenable to treatment by Scientific Physical Culture.

Take this Opportunity.

So many thousands have found relief and cure in this treatment, which it has been proved by *Truth* permanently cures 94 in every 100 cases, and gives substantial relief in 99 in every 100 cases, that there exists no reason why you should not do the same.

Mr. Sandow does not claim that he can cure everything. For the present he states that he has during recent years had a total of many thousands of cases of Digestive Disorder, Nervous Breakdown, of varied types in both men and women, Uric Acid Complaints, Heart Troubles and Circulatory Disorders, Obesity, Chest and Lung Weakness, Physical Deformities and Spinal Curvatures, Kidney Disorders, the Special Ailments of Women, and cases of general physical deficiency. His uniform success in dealing with these by natural means has amply proved that his method is the surest cure in such illnesses.

It involves no lifting of heavy weights or strenuous fatiguing exertions, being regulated to exactly accord with the patient's constitution and condition, and for this reason is suitable for persons of all ages, being taken without the possibility of strain by children of five years and men and women of eighty-five and over.

If your own complaint or condition is mentioned below, Mr. Sandow offers you his advice free of charge, and should you decide to take treatment, although you are under no obligation to do so, the charge for the course prescribed will be found to be quite within your means. Mr. Sandow likes all who can to call upon him personally, but one of the great advantages of scientific exercise treatment as directed by him is that it can be taken by so many sufferers in their own homes. For this reason he numbers amongst his patients many whom he has never seen, but who have derived the greatest benefit from the treatment which he has prescribed by correspondence.

Mr. Sandow deals with your letter and forwards in return his opinion upon your case with a copy of the booklet desired.

Call or Write To-day.

The first step to take to avail yourself of this opportunity does not involve you in any expense. If you are able, call upon Mr. Sandow, as he cordially invites you to. If this is not possible, you should select from the titles of the Sandow Health Library given below the particular book dealing with your illness or condition. Then write a letter, mentioning this offer in JOHN BULL, to Mr. Sandow, 32, St. James' Street, London, S.W., giving fullest particulars of the ailment or complaint suffered, and you will receive a copy of the booklet free of charge, together with a candid opinion as to the suitability of your case for treatment by Scientific Curative Physical Culture.

These are the titles of Mr. Sandow's Health Library from which you are invited to select the booklet you desire, and write for it to-day, mentioning "John Bull."

Vol.	Illustrated.
1.	Indigestion and Dyspepsia.
2.	Constipation and its Cure.
3.	Liver Troubles.
4.	Nervous Disorders in Men.
5.	Nervous Disorders in Women.
6.	Obesity in Men.
7.	Obesity in Women.
8.	Heart Affections.
9.	Lung and Chest Complaints.
10.	Rheumatism and Gout.
11.	Anæmia: Its Cause and Cure
12.	Kidney Disorders: Functional and Chronic.
13.	Lack of Vigour.
14.	Physical Deformities in Men.
15.	Physical Deformities in Women.
16.	Functional Defects in Speech
17.	Circulatory Disorders.
18.	Skin Disorders.
19.	Physical Development for Men.
20.	Everyday Health.
21.	Boys' and Girls' Health and Ailments.
22.	Figure Culture for Women.
23.	Insomnia.
24.	Neurasthenia.

If unable to call personally at the Sandow Institute, sufferers are invited to select the volume bearing upon their principal weakness and to write for it (if addressing Eugen Sandow, 32, St. James' Street, London, S.W., when they will receive same as nearly by return of post as possible.

You can at your leisure at home study how you and yours may secure perfect health by natural means.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By Walter Moore.

XXXV.—MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN, M.P.

With many misgivings and an Irish dictionary I recently crossed over to Erin for the purpose of interviewing Mr. William O'Brien, the leader of the Independent tail of the Irish party in the House of Commons.

Arriving in due course at Mallow Cottage, Westport, Co. Mayo, I asked the colleen who opened the door whether I might see Mr. O'Brien.

"If it's a Redmondite ye are, sure, he's out," said she; "but if yer hanner's an ordinary paceable mortal, he's in, an'll see ye in less than a minute."

Having assured the maid of my peaceful intentions I was shown without more ado into the presence of The O'Brien, who welcomed me with true Hibernian warmth.

"It's glad to see ye I am," cried Mr. O'Brien; "The indipindint spirit that animates John Bull and the members of the John Bull League appeals to me entoirely. Indade, ut has strengthened me in me detarmination to for-rm a big Indipindint Oirish Par-rty tu resist the tyranny of the Redmond squad, and I shall du ut."

"And when you have driven the Redmondites from the field, I suppose the Independent Irish Party will become as tyrannical as those they displaced," I suggested.

"Divil a doubt of ut," laughed Mr. O'Brien; "we praych indipindince while we are wake; but, begorrah, whin ut's power we've got, we call indipindince rebellion."

"Ah, there's a lot of human nature in mankind," I murmured, sententiously.

"Thrue for ye," agreed Mr. O'Brien; "and especially in Oirishmen."

"That is why they are so loveable," said I.

"Sure, ye spake loike an Oirishman yeself," cried Mr. O'Brien, clapping me on the shoulder.

"Well, Mr. O'Brien," I began, "I am anxious to know what position you intend to take up with regard to the Budget."

"The whole strength of the Indipindint Par-rty will be opposed to the License Clauses and the Whisky Tax. In our opinion the presperity of the distilling industhry in Oireland is of greater importance thin all the hypothetical measures of Home Rule. We are disgusted by the inconsistency of the Liberal Par-rty. They promise Oireland Home Rule for purely domestic affairs, but, in the manetoime they thry to crush one of the chafe industhries of Oireland aginst the will of the Oirish paple."

"But when you get your measure of Home Rule it will be easy enough to remove those imposts which you deem unjust."

"Whin!" roared Mr. O'Brien; "whin we get Home Rule! I tell ye, 'twill not be from the Liberal Par-rty we shall get Home Rule at all, at all. The Home Rule question will wreck the Liberal Government. There will be another Gineral Election before you can say Pat Rafferty. The Tories will come back with a small majority over the Radicals. Then we, the Oirish Par-rty, will agin demand Home Rule—and we shall get ut. The Tories will give us anything to kape in power."

"It is easy to make political prophecies," I remarked; "meanwhile, what are you going to do about Redmond?"

"We're going to put down the high and mighty from his sate. We are going to be the tail that will wag the dog. Before many weeks are passed the House of Commons will be enjoying the spectacle of a shindy amongst the Oirish Mimbers."

"That will be very regrettable," I said.

"For why?" demanded Mr. O'Brien; "wud ye deproive an Oirishmun uv his prescriptive roight to a foight? As another great Oirishman wance said, Redmond is a snake in the grass, waving his cloven fut in the air—and we're going to scotch him, and Tay Pay O'Connor too, the spalpane! degrading the indipindint Oirish paple be beggin' for conthributions in the United States of America, and havin' a foine toime in New Yor-rk into the bargain, belave me."

"Well," said I, rising to leave, "you are struggling to introduce the spirit of independence into Irish politics. That is a worthy aim. May I suggest that you also endeavour to encourage a little commonsense at the same time?"

! ! * * — ! — ! ! ? *

Fortunately there was a surgeon in the vicinity.

OUR SPECIAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

(Specially Mis-reported for "John Bull.")

By Richard Morton.

(Mr. Morton satirises recent Police Court proceedings.)

The Penalty of Being Innocent.—A Striking Example.

Justice was done yesterday at the Guilty Hall, when Alderman Paunch sat to pronounce judgment in the case of John Scribbler, a young City clerk in the employ of Messrs. Sweatham and Grabham, East India merchants, of Ginger Lane, who was charged with receiving moneys belonging to his employers, omitting to account for them, and feloniously applying the same to his own use. In the dock with him was Edward Boss, lately manager to the said firm, accused of aiding and abetting.

Mr. Shout, who prosecuted, said it was a fearful thing that in a commercial city young men could be found to help themselves to the money of their benevolent and noble-minded employers. Here was a clerk receiving quite twenty shillings a week, who had been entrusted with the handling of considerable sums paid by customers. It was his duty to hand these sums to the other prisoner, but there was no record of his having done so in the instances under notice, and his masters had been reluctantly compelled to bring him befor a court of justice.

Evidence of arrest was given by Detective Lagg, who said the young man Scribbler was hitherto of irreproachable character. He acknowledged having received the monies mentioned, but stated he had handed the same to the other prisoner, Boss, his manager. It was Boss who had omitted to account for them.

Boss: Quite right. Scribbler paid the cash into me in the ordinary way of the office.

The Alderman: Then this young man appears to be quite innocent?

Mr. Shout: We do not deny that. But it was our duty to bring him here, and duty, however distasteful, must be done.

The Alderman: Was he arrested on a warrant?

Detective: Oh, yes, and kept in a cell all night.

The Alderman: Well, we don't think we need keep him any longer. The other prisoner admits receiving the money from him. (To Scribbler) You are discharged.

Scribbler: Without a stain on my character?

The Alderman: Oh, yes. If it is any consolation to you, I may say I do not think you ought to have been brought here at all. But the law is a very curious thing, and you may find an amusing side to these proceedings if you try hard enough.

More Injured Innocence—Aristocratic Wardrobe Dealers.

Sophie Allwork, a respectable-looking servant girl, was charged at the West End Police Court with purloining sundry articles of wearing apparel belonging to her late mistress, Lady Makewait. Sir Cayenne Makewait was the prosecutor.

The charge as outlineed by Mr. Pounce, solicitor, was that Sophie Allwork, who had been her ladyship's maid, had possessed herself of two blouses, one skirt, and a tailor-made coat. These were found in her box when a search was made, and it was contended she had stolen them.

Sir Cayenne Makewait said what caused him to search the defendant's box was that he found so very little of Lady Makewait's wearing apparel in the house. He could not think what had become of it. He admitted defendant had duly handed him a sum of money and some articles of jewellery.

Defendant: There wasn't a penny missing, and I gave everything to the master directly I saw him.

Sir Cayenne: That is so.

Magistrate: But, Allwork, how do you account for the possession of the clothes?

Defendant: I bought them.

Magistrate: From whom?

Defendant: From Lady Makewait.

Magistrate: Nonsense. Ladies in society do not sell their cast-off clothes. We all know that they give such things to their faithful servants.

Defendant: Ah, that was the good old style. But nowadays half the aristocracy is in trade. The mistress regularly sold her costumes to us servants, and, what we did not buy, she sent to the auction room.

Sir Cayenne Makewait admitted that his wife had sold clothes.

Magistrate: Well, we live and learn. Defendant says she bought these things and there is no evidence to the contrary. Servants should take a receipt in future. He understood the charge was withdrawn.

THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC.

A Great National Crusade, in Conducting which we Ask your Assistance.

Nearly every day in some part of the country there appears in the daily papers a paragraph referring to the mysterious disappearance of a young girl from her home. She starts off to work, or goes shopping, or sets out for a walk, and never returns. Or she answers an advertisement for a situation as a governess or companion in a foreign family, and after setting out on her journey is never heard from again.

Quite by chance a case of this sort (fortunately without the usual unpleasant ending) came under the notice of the Editor of *M.A.P.* The facts were embodied in a letter, from which we give the following extracts :—

SIR,—I wish to lay before you the facts of a most deplorable case which, but for an accident, might have resulted in lifelong misery to a young lady in this village.

I do so in the hope that you will think fit to take the matter up and ascertain whether this is an isolated case, or if it is one of many, which, for various reasons, never come before the public.

The daughter of a well-known resident here—a good-looking and well-educated girl of twenty-two—recently decided to seek a situation as a governess in France, in order to perfect herself in French conversation.

An advertisement in one of the London morning papers attracted her attention. It stated that the advertiser required an educated English girl to act as governess to two children in a French family living near Boulogne. Applicants were to communicate with an address given in London.

My young friend, without saying anything to her parents, answered the advertisement and received an invitation to call. An immaculately dressed and well-spoken gentleman received her, and, after some conversation, expressed the belief that she would suit most admirably. He explained that the lady who required the governess was rather in a hurry, and he would consider it a great convenience if the girl could start in a couple of days' time.

Another English girl was going over to act in a similar capacity in a neighbouring family, and, as she was going from Maidstone, it would be perhaps more companionable if my young friend were to join her in that town. They could then travel from Maidstone to Boulogne by a boat which regularly made the trip.

Of course, the successful applicant was delighted with her success, especially as most liberal terms were offered, and made every preparation for her departure. The night before she was ready to start, she visited one or two of her great friends in the village to say good-bye. One of them, a gentleman who had taken a kindly interest in the girl nearly all her life, was rather surprised at the method of getting to Boulogne, as he knew there was no regular service of passenger boats from Maidstone to the Continent, and asked if she would delay her departure until he was able to make investigations.

After pressure she agreed, and investigations revealed the fact that this was a most cleverly laid trap for getting the girl over to France in such a way as to leave no trace behind her, and taking her to a house of ill-fame.

Had she gone by one of the regular routes, there would probably have been little difficulty in afterwards tracing her, even if the officers of the National Vigilance Association had not actually spoken to her at the station or on the boat with a view to discovering where she was going.

By good fortune, however, the whole thing was discovered, and the girl saved from a terrible fate.

I have consulted solicitors on the subject, with a view to taking action, but am told that such a proceeding would be futile.

It seems to me that the only way to stop this sort of thing is to give full publicity to the methods resorted to by these blackguards.

I remain, Your obedient servant,

J. H.

On receipt of this letter, the Editor of *M.A.P.*, with the assistance of the National Vigilance Society, instituted searching inquries, which led him to the inevitable conclusion that there flourishes in our midst a horrible traffic of which practically nothing is known to the vast majority of the people of this country.

The traffic consists of capturing by trickery innocent girls, and inveigling them to houses of ill-fame in London or the Continent, from which they never escape.

No one—unless closely associated with this trade—knows exactly how the traffickers do their work. The procurers are frequently so plausible, and so apparently well educated, that a father or a brother is often absolutely hoodwinked when interviewing an agent on behalf of a daughter or sister who is seeking an honest situation abroad.

The reason for this ignorance of the methods of those engaged in the traffic is easy to understand. Most of you are alive to the tricks of the ordinary sharper, because of the publicity given his methods in the Press. But the relatives of a girl who becomes a victim of the White Slave Traffic naturally hate publicity and details of these cases, therefore, seldom appear in the papers.

It is, however, publicity of the extremely clever methods adopted that gives warning to others. That is ample justification for exposing a trade which is responsible for luring abroad hundreds of young girls from this country. That is the reason for starting this great national crusade.

Commencing with this week's issue, *M.A.P.* will publish an important series of articles which will throw the full light of publicity on the dark ways of the trafficker's work. The articles will make it abundantly clear that the White Slave Traffic is a thoroughly organised and ingenious system of business, and one which is allowed to exist only by reason of the attitude of indifference assumed by the public who, through ignorance, do not realise its awfulness.

We ask our readers to co-operate in the campaign. Correspondence on the subject is invited, and we shall be pleased to hear from any reader who has had personal experience of the methods of the White Slave Traffickers, and is willing to help forward the work of exposure.

Letters will naturally be treated in the strictest confidence, and no names will be published without the consent of the parties interested. Envelopes should be addressed to the Editor, *M.A.P.*, Henrietta Street, London, W.C. and marked "Private."

AMONG THE LAWYERS.

LIABILITY FOR MAIL LOSSES.

A British Columbia reader sends us some correspondence she has had with the Post Office Department, Ottawa, over the loss of a registered letter. It seems that our correspondent enclosed ten dollars in a letter which she registered in British Columbia, the letter being addressed to Madame Valerie, New Burlington Street. This letter was stolen in a holdup of the stage on the Cariboo Wagon Road, and our correspondent made claim for indemnity of the loss. This is the reply she got from Ottawa :—

> I have to state that this Department is exempted by law from pecuniary liability in connection with mishaps occurring to mail matter except in the case of the actual loss of registered mail. In the present instance the letter to which you refer was recovered without its stated money contents, and forwarded to the Secretary, G.P.O., London, England, on the 15th ult., for transmission, with an explanation of the circumstances to the addressee.

It would seem then that by the law of Canada highwaymen may hold up the mail and extract from the letters it contains all that is valuable, and if only the envelopes are left in the mail the remitters of monies, even though the letters are registered, have no redress against the Government, although admittedly the Government is responsible if, in addition to taking the valuables, the robbers destroy the envelopes. It is a curious distinction and one difficult, we should imagine, to reconcile with equity.

A LENIENT MAGISTRATE.

Some days ago a true, if rather platitudinous remark, was made by Mr. Hutton, sitting at the Woolwich Police Court. "It is," said the worthy magistrate, "a cowardly act to strike a woman or child." So cowardly that we should have thought when a brute guilty of this atrocity comes before him Mr. Hutton would be careful to punish him in a way likely to be remembered. Apparently, however, Mr. Hutton's indignation at assaults upon women and children evaporates with words, for the facts of the case which gave rise to Mr. Hutton's remark, as quoted above, are as follows :—

> John Benson and Robert Benson were summoned by Daisy Benson for assault. The evidence showed that the complainant saw John Benson (her husband) in the street and asked him to come home. He pushed her, and then Robert Benson came up and the two of them assaulted her, knocking her about until she became insensible.

Here we have not merely a brute of a husband mauling his wife, but another brute, presumably a brother, helping him, until between them the two brutes have knocked her senseless. Whereupon platitudinous Mr. Hutton, instead of giving them as severe a sentence as the law permits, binds the two rascals to keep the peace, and lets them go. Probably the next thing we shall hear from this remarkable Court is the sentence of some poor starving devil to two or three months' imprisonment for stealing a loaf.

Mr. Horace Avory, as Commissioner of Assize, requires looking after. At Manchester the other day a man named Louis Lawrence Levy was convicted of having entered a post-office, presented a pistol at the head of the young woman in charge, ransacked the till—and given the woman such a shock that she is still very ill. He got eighteen months! Did Mr. Avory think the prisoner was his old friend *Levie*, of Guildhall fame—or infamy?

LEGAL ANSWERS.

[Only questions of general interest will be answered in this column, and under no circumstances can replies be sent by post.]

Mining Agreement in Africa.—Abonne.—It seems to us that you have not a sufficiently strong case to justify any claim, and as the company is not flourishing you would waste money in bringing an action.

Enforcement of County Court Judgment.—Pocklington.—It is entirely in the discretion of the judge whether he will make an order for imprisonment of the debtor, and there is no way in which you can enforce the judgment.

Diamond Ring.—A. J. F.—The purchase of a ring for £20 under an agreement that the seller would take it back within a stated period and give £19 is a contract, for the breach of which an action can be brought. You should sue for the £19 and offer to return the ring in the event of your recovering that sum as damages for breach of the agreement.

Bankruptcy.—T. H. R.—As you included the amount in the bankruptcy as a claim in the nature of a debt you have no other remedy. There would be no objection to your stating the case to the estate agents.

Promissory Note.—H. S. S.—A note must be on stamped paper, and the stamp must be there before the note is signed. If an ordinary 3d. adhesive stamp is used the note is void.

Recovery of Parcel Wrongly Delivered.—J. L. P.—The man has no right to retain the parcel, as he has no lien on it. You should summon him for detaining it, and you can do this before a police court, as the place is within the Metropolitan Police district.

THE SANITARY TRAINING COLLEGE.

The following advertisement is appearing in the *Daily Telegraph* :—

> Factory, Sanitary, Weights and Measures Inspectors, Lady Health Visitors, School Nurses, &c.—All desiring these Posts write Sanitary, 335, High Holborn, London. £100—£1,000. Experience unnecessary. Rapid and interesting postal or personal preparation.

It will be noticed that the advertisement promises posts worth from £100 to £1,000 a year to persons who may communicate with the advertiser. A reader of the advertisement, anxious for such a post, wrote to "Sanitary," and in reply received various papers from the Sanitary Training College, of 335, High Holborn, W.C., from which she gathered that upon passing an examination for which the Sanitary Training College coaches students, she would be fully qualified for an appointment as a lady sanitary inspector.

In the letter in which the Principal, Mr. R. Chambers, replied to our correspondent, he speaks of "the long and splendid list of appointments and successes already made by former pupils of the College."

We shall be glad if some of these pupils will give us their experience of the advantages derived as a result of joining the College.

THE ABERLOUR ORPHANAGE.

We have received a lengthy letter from the Rev. Canon Jupp with respect to the references to the Aberlour Orphanage, which recently appeared in John Bull. Mr. Jupp tells us that the home contains 480 children; that they are not "drawn from the undesirable class"; that the staff consists of 47 persons, including 11 matrons, 3 assistant nurses, and 2 cooks; and that the food is wholesome and sufficient, whilst the boys are in good health.

The information we have received from many quarters satisfies us that the management of the Orphanage is in need of overhauling, and we have reason to believe that that is the opinion of the Bishop of the diocese, but the last communication we published on the subject testified in a very unqualified way to the good work that has been done by Canon Jupp at the Orphanage, and in directing attention to certain weak points in the administration we had no desire whatever to belittle that work.

OH, FOR THAT BUSINESS GOVERNMENT!

A Southwick reader writes :—

> I think the following story throws an interesting light on the way business is dealt with by the L.C.C. :—
>
> I wrote asking what size the registration numbers on a motor-cycle had to be. I had a reply as follows : "Dimensions of plates for motor-cars to be halved in case of bicycles. (See 4th Schedule to Local Government Board Regulations, '03, to Motor Car Act, '03.)"
>
> By some oversight I have neglected to procure a copy of the Local Government Board Regulations, '03, to Motor Car Act, '03, so have had to write asking for size of motor-car numbers. Then I can calculate size I want.
>
> How would a business firm get on which dealt with an enquiry like this?

We have received a letter from the Secretary of the Christian Science Committee on Publications, traversing our statement and conclusions as expressed in the "Open Letter" to Mrs. Jessie Braithwaite, which appeared in our issue of January 29th. The Secretary says :—(1) That Mrs. Braithwaite did not attend Captain Donne for seven years, "but at intervals during that period." (2) That the charge of one guinea per week "would be a small recompense, judged from an ordinary standpoint, for the amount of time and service given. (3) That before turning to Christian Science, "Captain Donne had consulted twenty-two doctors, the last of whom had given him only three months to live eight years ago." (4) That as to "innumerable inquests," the occasions when Christian Scientists appear in a Coroner's Court are rare, and that a large number of cases that come to Christian Science for treatment have already been pronounced incurable by the doctors. (5) That Christian Scientists do not assume that the prayers of clergymen are worth nothing. Nor can clergymen's prayers be obtained for nothing, since "clergymen in the Church of England, as well as ministers of the Nonconformist denominations, are paid for the work they do."

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

It is quite curious to note how completely red hair has gone out of fashion lately. I am not trying to be sarcastic; I am stating a simple fact. You may look round a fashionable playhouse in vain, to-day, for those Titian heads which recently glowed from every other stall and box; and at smart social gatherings the fiery splendour is conspicuous by its absence. Even the novels of the last few months have spared us that heroine with wonderful dark auburn locks, and have allowed her darker, or even her ash-blonde, sister a chance. It certainly comes as a relief to many of us, particularly, I should imagine, to the rare possessors of the real thing. At last they will stand out again as rather individual, which is really their one great chance of effect. There are certain beauties and attributes all tending towards the extreme which depend for any sort of charm upon their standing alone. Directly you duplicate them their effectiveness changes weirdly into vulgarity. Amongst these is a misunderstood soul in a woman. One of her is rather dramatic. Two of her make farce. Another is a red coat and skirt, or a red ball dress. Another is a social reformer. One is rather inspiring, but two scream. I am fully of the opinion that one woman pleading for the franchise would have got it, if she could have been placed before mankind quite singly in a vast background all to herself. So the girl with auburn locks, after long injustice, has come into her own again.

A Lover's Bill.

Last week I wrote about that undying type, the Victorian man, and now news comes from Berlin of one of the most gorgeous specimens our age has been privileged to bring forth in the shape of a German fiancé, who has thrown over his lady-love for joining a midnight carnival without his consent. And not only has he jilted her, but he has demanded back all the presents, large or trifling, that he ever gave her, and has actually sent in a bill, carefully drawn up, every item noted, for all the small monies he spent on her during their engagement—such things as cab fares, restaurant teas, theatre tickets, and so on. Report does not say whether in this he has charged for the stamps on his love-letters, or the cost of the stationery and sealing-wax, ink, etc. But he seems to be a very narrow escape from the lady's point of view. She, poor thing, lived at Gottingen, which is very scientific and very dull, in the appallingly inhuman way that scientific circles do manage to be dull. She had gone up to Berlin to spend a few days with her fiancé's people, and had apparently fallen in love with the gay spirit of the capital city. Greatly desiring to see the midnight carnival, she doubtless expressed a wish to do so, but was refused by that stony fiancé. So she let him see her off in the train home to Gottingen with unruffled amiability, then slipped out at the next station, travelled back, and went to the revels unaccompanied. Even the "kind friends" who eventually discovered her there and told her keeper all about it, say she was unaccompanied. But the result was a crashing down of her marital prospects! Poor Fraülein! And probably she only had an enquiring mind. How like an Ibsen play this little incident reads, but how much more Ibsenish it would have become had they got married! One very much wonders whether the aggrieved gentleman charged for that railway ticket to Gottingen, as the gay Fraülein only used it to the next station.

The Real Thing In Ladies.

What every lady ought to be, according to the gospel of the working poor (written by one of themselves, if such a thing were possible), would, indeed, be a subject worthy of the "woman" canvasser's study for future election routs. Now that the flurry of the last one is over, and we are counting the slain and wounded, we find many of this absolutely honest and well-intentioned army sadly lacerated. And simply because they have never learnt what the weapons of the foe are, nor their own possibilities of defence, or even persuasion. For, say what she may in the heat of the moment, the working woman adores a lady. Only she must be a "real" lady. When gorgeous ladies from the Golden West sweep, glittering down like great birds of Paradise, on to the ashen East or the drab South to sue for votes, they do not get them. And the censure is severe. "Bloomin' toffs" or "No better than they ought to be's," are the names briskly assigned to them. While, at the other extreme, that "suitable" macintosh and boat-shaped hat of the earnest person who wishes to play down her audience, only get her the name of "old geeser" and "Aunt Sally from the country." But there does exist a genuine and definite ideal of what a "lidy" ought to look like amongst the poor, and that is, purely and simply—Queen Alexandra. Does not her portrait in oleograph and on almanack decorate every slum home? Is she not always before them as the genuine presentment of the genuine thing? It is very natural that they should, as they do, judge every woman from the wider world who comes to their door by that gentle and dignified standard. It is also a very humbling thought for us that when we go canvassing amongst the soiled and sodden workers, it is not their coarseness that we have to combat—it is the beauty of the Queen.

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Name.....

Address.....

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, "Sherlock Holmes," London.

MY DEAR ARTHUR,— You can hardly be more surprised than I am that your detective stories have been prohibited for sale by the Directorate of the First Arrondisement of the Chemins de Fer Federaux of the Swiss Republic. It seems that two Swiss lads who have done a horrible murder in France were enthusiastic readers of "Sherlock Holmes," and though I don't remember that you publish any recipes for murder in that wondrous work, the word has gone forth that you are not to be permitted to realise any more fourpence ha'porths on that railway line. Be assured of my sympathy.

JOHN BULL.

To George Alexander, Esq., St. James's Theatre, London.

DEAR GEORGE,—Let me congratulate you on the beginning of your twenty-first year as an actor-manager. Though I don't set myself up as a dramatic critic, I do think you act rather nicely and manage rather well. It is a pity you haven't got a knighthood. You have such beautiful eyes. However, you are on the list, and I shouldn't be staggered if you were the next in the acting line to get the title. So far as I know, you have never done anything to undeserve it. What with the L.C.C. and other things, I gather that you work even more than you play. So good luck.

JOHN BULL.

To James Blackledge, Esq., Derby Road Mills, Bootle.

SIR,—Evidently you do not think much of Mr. Balfour's "pledge" that his proposed duty on wheat would not raise the price of bread, for the Millers' Association having notified you that if such a duty should be imposed, a corresponding increase in the price of flour will be charged to the baker, you, as a baker, have also notified that if a duty is imposed, you will (under the old "Assize" system) decrease the weight of your bread in proportion.

I anticipate that what happens in Bootle will happen all over the country, a duty on wheat either decreasing the size or increasing the price of the loaf. I know that in Germany, where the duty on wheat is 11s. 6d. the quarter, the extra price charged is often in excess of the duty paid, and that the cost of the loaf is considerably higher. Having regard to all these facts I have come to the conclusion that my Business Government would not risk the artificial raising of the price of bread by the imposition of a duty on imported wheat.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. Leonard Parker, Rector of Saunderton, Bucks.

DEAR RECTOR,—I gather from the account I have heard of your manifold calamities that some clergymen get a living and some don't. You appear to be one of those who don't. No doubt Magdalen College thought it was doing you a good turn when it presented you to Saunderton at £260 a year, less a £70 pension to be paid to the old incumbent, for not a few rectors have to feel passing rich on less. Your heart must have been full of thanksgiving when, one cold December, you entered the living with your old mother. She was perfectly well till that time, but, alas! when you had been in residence two Sundays, the sewer gas escaped through the rectory floor from an old cesspool beneath, and killed her. There was nothing for it but to borrow a bit to put the drains right. So sad was your plight that the good Bishop advised you to throw yourself on Queen Anne's Bounty, and, accordingly, you threw—to be met with a refusal on the ground that you had begun mending the drains without leave.

After you had got into debt for £200, the gents who are supposed to dispense bounty on behalf of the late Queen Anne made a claim against you for £15 as First Fruits. The First Fruits were, in fact, typhoid, and if I had been in your place I should have sent them, carriage forward, specimens of the bacilli, and bits of the drain pipes, and samples of the cesspool. You declined to send them the £15, at any rate, and one day you were surprised to learn that they had granted you £29 towards the cost of those drains! In that delirious moment I suppose anyone might have knocked you down with a feather! But you are still paying off the cash you borrowed, and "in about fifteen years," as you put it, you "may be able to afford yourself some holidays, and also, to please your parish, which demands a married man, and hasn't got one: but," you add with pathos, "I shall be very old." I don't like to make myself so verbally crude, rector, but if it should happen that I come across a rich attorney's elderly, ugly daughter, would you——?

JOHN BULL.

To Joseph S. Barber, Esq., Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, London.

DEAR JOSEPH,—Hope you'll have a good time in your retirement from the post of Chief Dispenser at the Royal Free Hospital. As you have a record of fifty-nine years' service among the physic bottles and eighty-one or eighty-two birthdays to your credit, you deserve a rest. Wonder if the fact that you have been able to help yourself to lung tonic, and muscle lotion, and nerve soother, and blood purifier, and other blessings of this life, has had anything to do with your big score. Anyhow, as you are leaving the Pharmacopæia for the *dolce far niente*, I should start on Metchnikoff's sour milk, if I were you. Take it twice a day week-days and once on Sundays, and you'll live for ever. Beware of spurious imitations, however. None is genuine unless the label, "Nasty," is on the bottle.

JOHN BULL.

To T. E. Simpson, Esq., Coroner, Liverpool.

SIR,—I agree with all that you said at the inquest on Eliza Wilson, the rag-gatherer. During a recent bitter night the woman crawled into an outhouse in the yard of a Clare Street house occupied by a dockside labourer named Holdings and his wife. When these people found her, she was covered with snow, and learning that she was destitute and homeless they took her in, cared for her, and allowed her to sleep in the kitchen. I agree with you that it was a most kindly and Christian act on the part of Holdings to shelter and tend this starving and destitute woman, and I am specially pleased you subsequently made it your duty to reward Holdings and his wife for their goodness. Yet their conduct is not a rare example of good Samaritanism among the poor. "The best friends of the poor are the poor." I believe that in the hard lives which they live self-sacrifice and sympathy and mutual helpfulness are the commonplace facts of existence, and that what Holdings and his wife did for the starving and shelterless rag-gatherer has been done thousands of times before and will be done thousands of times again by others as poor as they. But not often do such stories come to ear, and when they do I think it is well that they who know not what it is to be poor should treasure them in their hearts for example and guidance.

JOHN BULL.

To Citizen James A. Patten, New York.

DEAR BOSS,—I see that you have been holding forth on the art of making money, and that, in your opinion, nerve and judgment are absolutely necessary. That you have unlimited "nerve" I will never deny, and as for judgment—if you have it not now—you may be sure of it later. Why do you Yankee millionaires make such spectacles of yourselves? Do you imagine that because you have managed, in a little while, to engineer a few millions out of the pockets of others into your own, you are thereby entitled to lay down the law and preach to the world at large? And what arrant humbug you preach! You "hope to do much good with your money." Well, you will need to, remembering how much harm you wrought in the making of it. You never invest in tenements because you "couldn't evict people." Such tenderness of heart would move me to tears if I did not also recollect that your "corner" in wheat meant semi-starvation for thousands of poor people, and utter ruin for hundreds of small speculators. You further say, "The rich man is beginning to realise his duty to the weak man, and I hope to realise mine." A bit late in the day, isn't it? But, of course, you couldn't realise it till you *were* a rich man, could you? Bah! you make my corns ache.

JOHN BULL.

Chamberlain, Highbury.

Have read that interview with the *Morning Post*. Do you know anything about it?

BULL.

Lloyd George, Treasury.

Gather that although quite near each other, you and Asquith had not been on speaking terms. Coming events?

BULL.

William O'Brien, Cork, Ireland.

Have notified John Redmond of your statement that every independent man is hunted out Irish Party. Strongly suspect you are after his job.

BULL.

THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

FEBRUARY 12TH, 1910.

SHADE OF JOHN BULL: "Well, gentlemen, and what about me and MY policy?"

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

A Pause in the Rubber Boom on Profit Taking, but a Sounder Position Created—The Madagascar Issue Largely Over-subscribed—Rise in Venture Corporation—Molesworth Rubber a Cheap Share.

It is not surprising that after the sharp and long-continued rise in Rubber shares, a moderate reaction occurred on profit-taking. Some of the leading operators, and especially Mincing Lane men, contributed to the movement, as the speculative element was in their opinion gaining too much ground, and a good many of the weaker crowd were eliminated. I have repeatedly stated that it is essential to pay for the shares bought, so as to be able to face temporary reactions. Prices fell away at one time on the statement that carry-over facilities would be curtailed, but are now recovering from the shake-out and are, in balance, really not much down from February 2nd, when the rise culminated, as will be gathered from the following comparative table of representative stocks :—

	Denomination of Shares.	Price, Oct. 30, 1909.	Price, Feb. 2, 1910.	Price, Feb. 8, 1910.
Cicely Ordinary	2s.	2½s.	3s. 6d.	3½s.
Prets.	2s.	2½s.	3s. 6d.	3s. 6d.
Inch Kenneth	£1	6⅛	9⅛	9⅛
Selangor	2s.	3s. 9d.	4s.	4s. 6d.
North Hummock	£1	1 15-16 pm.	3 pm.	2⅛ pm.
Linggi Plantation	—	—	37s.	37s.
Highlands and Lowlands	£1	2¼ pm.	5	4 15-16
Sumatra Para	2s.	6d.	10s. 3d.	9s. 9d.
Peraks	£1	3 7-16	4 13-16	4 9-16
Sungei Kruits	£1	4s. 6d. pm.	¼ pm.	7-16 pm
Jong Landor	£1	4s. pm.	11-16 pm.	7-16 pm.
Jugra Lands	£1	2½s.	2s. 6d.	2⅞
Carey United	£1	¼ pm.	¼ pm.	¼ pm.
Straits (Bertam)	£1	3s. 6d.	6s. 6d.	6s.
Sekong	£1	8s. 6d. pm.	⅛ pm.	9-16pm.
Kellas Ordinary	£1	1 1-16	1⅛	1⅛
Castlefields	£1	2⅛	4⅛	4⅛
Glen Bervie	£1	7-16 pm.	⅛ pm.	⅛ pm.
Java United	£1	1⅛	1 7-16	1⅛
Malacca Ordinary	£1	9⅛	9⅛	9⅛
Rubber P.I. Trust	£1	13s. pm.	28s. 6d. pm.	28s. pm.
Options	—	11s.	25s.	21s. 6d.
Jequie Rubber	2s.	3s. 10½d.	12s. 9d.	11s. 3d.
West Jequie	—	—	4s. 9d. pm.	4s. 3d.pm.
Merton Rubber Syndicate	£1	1 9-16	1⅛	1⅛
Madagascar Rubber Estates	£1	—	1⅛ pm.	1⅛ pm.
Chersonese Options	—	9d.	2s. 3d.	2s. 3d.
Molesworth Bros.	2s.	—	2s. 9d.	3s.

The rally of *Rubber Trusts* was more particularly sharp, as these had dropped to 25s. *Jequié Syndicate* are easier at 11s. 3d., but I presume that most of my readers who bought *Jequié* from 5s. upwards have taken their profits. If not, they should do so, and buy *West Jequié* instead, at about 4s. 3d. premium for special settlement, as these are expected to go much higher. *Madagascar Rubber Estates* have been very largely over-subscribed, and are quoted 1 3-16 premium per £1 share for 8.s. This Company has acquired a huge territory, and will no doubt float off several subsidiaries. Needless to say that this further striking success after the Jequié flotations has further raised the price of the *London Venture Corporation* shares to 5s. 6d.—5s. 9d., and as there are further important promotions at hand the price is expected to go still higher. By the way, as low-priced shares are coming strongly into demand, my readers will do well to pay attention to *Molesworth Brothers Rubber Estates, Ltd.* The capital is £70,000, out of which the large proportion of £40,000 is set aside for working capital. The property covers 2,800 acres in Trincomali, Ceylon, with an option on 2,500 acres adjoining. There are 400 old rubber trees, 32 acres carrying 16,000 trees, and 200 acres about to be planted with seedlings which are on hand. A crop of 1,500 lbs. per acre of tobacco is growing on the estate, which also grows cotton and kutch well, and 8,000 to 10,000 cocoanut trees yielding 25 to 30 nuts per tree. No wonder that the 2s. shares are rising at 3s.—3s. 6d.

Mexican Rails—Dividend Hopes and Fears.

The Mexican Railway dividend announcement is not due until the end of March, so that operators have plenty of time to indulge in hopes and fears as regards the prospects. The Mexican Railway Board, like that of the Grand Trunk, is fond of springing surprises upon its stockholders—pleasant and otherwise, so that to venture an estimate of the probable dividend is almost like giving hostages to fortune. It depends upon whether you approach the subject as a "Bull" or a Bear." If you are the former, you will naturally point to the excellent results achieved during the half-year under review, the December statement showing a net gain of 73,500 dollars, which raises the aggregate net increment to 447,900 dollars, comparing with a shrinkage of 353,300 dollars in the corresponding period of 1908. Working expenses have been very low of late, and the ratio for December was under 46 per cent., as compared with a market estimate of at least 53 per cent. The net receipts for the half year, in sterling, will thus be over £183,000.

NEW ISSUES.

U. S. of Brazil Government Bonds.

Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons are prepared to receive subscriptions at the price of 87½ for an issue of £10,000,000 four per cent. United States of Brazil Government bonds. It is proposed to apply the loan to the conversion and redemption of the Western of Minas Railroad Company five per cent. Guaranteed Loan of 1893, as well as of the United States of Brazil Government 5 per cent. Loan of 1907, and also for the extension and construction of railways in the State of Ceara and Piauhy. Subscriptions may be made either in cash or in these bonds. The redemption of the loan will be effected by the accumulative Sinking Fund of ½ per cent. per annum, commencing in 1911. The list will be closed on or before the 14th inst., and no subscriptions will be received on Saturday.

WARING AND GILLOW.

Although we wish that the accounts of this firm had been brought more up to date, we are glad to observe that, notwithstanding the general depression which has existed among commercial concerns generally during the past couple of years, with the result that their profits have been considerably decreased, they have effected considerable improvement in their balance sheet by reducing their liabilities, the sum of £72,014 having been wiped off Sundry Creditors, while a reduction of £176,116 has been effected in Advances on Investments, making a total reduction of liabilities of £248,130. They have also taken advantage of the opportunity of writing off sundry items for Preliminary and Advertising expenses, Doubtful Debts and Branch developments, etc., by means of appropriations from the Reserve Fund. The latter is, of course, correspondingly reduced, but the effect is, on the whole, to improve the appearance of the balance-sheet. At the meeting, the chairman expressed confident hopes of a speedy improvement in the company's prospects. We sincerely trust that his anticipations may be realised; that the mistakes of the past may be gradually remedied, and that the business may soon take its proper place amongst the great furnishing emporiums of the metropolis. But Mr. S. J. Waring has a big task in hand, and we shall await his next report with interest. Meanwhile, we shall say nothing to make the task more difficult.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, John Bull, 8, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are only made in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, for transacting business, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

Canadian Pacifics and Merlimaus.—E. D. (West Croydon).—You have done quite right to buy Canadian Pacifics, and although these have given way slightly on the accident, that will soon be forgotten, and does not really hurt them much financially. You should hold, as they will go better. I am glad you have done so well out of Jequié on my advice. Merlimau Rubber Shares of 2s. each, are now quoted 2s. 9d.—3s., and at that they are high enough. (This reply was shut out last week owing to want of space.)

New Rietfontein.—J. T.—Hold your shares, but do not average until further news comes to hand from the mine.

Lahat Tin, Etc.—Sadie.—(1) No quotation. (2) Chersonese Rubbers are likely to further improve. (3) Hold Simmer Deeps.

Loan of £550.—Nurse.—You will have to tell me what class of securities they are, on which you propose to borrow this money at 3½ per cent.

Rhodesia Exploration and Development.—G. W. B.—You cannot have bought Rhodesia Exploration and Development Company shares at 3s. The price is 2⅜. Presumably you have got some other shares. Please give me the exact title.

Old Bank Deposit.—T. B. (Shepherds Bush).—It is satisfactory that you have the name, and there are not many Irish banks concerned. The best way is to employ a solicitor.

Rhodesian and Jungle Mines.—W. H. S. (Sheffield).—No, I do not recommend you to go further into Tati Concessions (1). Yes, Rhodesia Copper (2) are worth holding. (Prestea Mines (3) are worth buying.

Japanese.—T. J. S.—(1) Yes, hold your Japanese 5 per cent. Bonds. (2) Put the further sum into Japanese 4 per cents. They are rising, and will go higher. (3 and 4). What you require has been forwarded.

New British Transvaal.—Small Investor.—Yes, New British Transvaal are promising. What you require has been forwarded.

RHODESIANS AND KAFFIRS.—RHODESIA.—(1) Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia should recover, and were not meant by my warning. (2—5) Kaffir shares should be held for a rise. Amongst Rubbers, Molesworth Bros. Rubber Estates 2s. shares at 3s. might suit you as being still cheap.

HAMBURG LOTTERY.—I do not see how you can avoid sending the lottery ticket. They would not have informed you that you have won a prize if they intended to cheat you out of it.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—L. E. C.—It is easy to see, even without knowing the name of the broker in question, that he is one of the many who run against their clients. If they are worth powder and shot it would be advisable to sue them through a sharp City solicitor. REVILO.—You should insist upon receiving the payment, but I am afraid that the amount is not large enough to go to law about. As requested, I send you name of a respectable firm of stockbrokers, members of the Stock Exchange, who will do the business for you. DOUBTFUL.—(1) I do not like the system of Allison and Co., managers of the Anglo-American Investment Trust, and I advise you to leave it alone. (2) You should deal, by preference, with a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange, whose name I am sending you. (3) Many people seem to have benefited. INVESTOR (Newcastle).—Outside brokers. You should deal with a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange, whose name I am forwarding to you. MELTON.—An outside firm, regarding whose faith I am more than doubtful. In fact, I think it would be throwing more good money after bad if you take legal proceedings against them. It should be a lesson to you not to deal with bucket-shops, but only through members of the Stock Exchange.

PENHURO RUBBER SHARES.—F. H. W.—These are not very attractive, and if you get a profit on them you should take it.

DRAPERY SHARES.—C. K.—I do not take a favourable view, and you had better sell the Preference.

PATENT EXPERTS.—INVENTOR.—The firm appears respectable, and I do not see that you incur any risk.

PACIFIC OREGON RAILWAY AND NAVIGATION.—AN OLD CHELTONIAN.—Since you acquired these stocks there has been a heavy fall in the Yankee market, and I certainly should not advise you to buy any more. (2) Only second rate. (3) Yes. Gerson, Hamson and Company have decamped.

G. F. REALISATION TRUST.—T. J. B.—These debentures were issued to creditors so as to arrange affairs of the person concerned, who, however, after all, got into the Bankruptcy Court, and the liquidator is one of the directors. From enquiries I learn that only some small further amount can be hoped for. The documents are returned, but you ought to have sent stamped envelope for return.

PRIVATE LIABILITY.—F. A. F.—Your best course would be to advertise your requirements in the daily press.

NATIONAL BENEFIT TRUST.—J. P. (Stockton).—I do not advise a purchase of this bond, even at the discount mentioned.

HOUSE PURCHASE.—CYMRO.—I do not like these house purchase schemes, experience having shown that most of such concerns often have difficulty in carrying out their promises, especially in the present condition of the property market. If you want to buy a house, why not go to one of the big building societies, such as the Birkbeck, National Freehold Land, or Temperance Building Society? J. W. H. (Birmingham).—The same reply as to "Cymro" above. It is usually very difficult to get your money out when you want it. Investment in the P.O. Savings Bank is far preferable.

PREMIUM BONDS.—J. H. D. (Cardiff).—I have sent you, as requested, name of a firm of Foreign Bankers in London, who make a speciality of these Bonds, and who will keep you informed about drawings, etc., against a small charge. Thanks for kind sentiments. MRS. L. E. M.—This is a trick. Have nothing to do with these people. I send you the name of a foreign banker in London, who will deal fairly with you. No reason to sell. Z. Y. X.—The firm whose name I send you will carefully look after all these matters. Don't be frightened into selling. BOSS.—Have nothing to do with Nos. 1—3. I am sending you the name of a suitable banker. Same reply to HOPEFUL, JACKO, D. J. M., EXETER. G. H. (Exeter).—(1 and 2) No catch. (3) Have nothing to do with this concern. They would charge you far above market price. I send you name of a reliable firm of foreign bankers in London, who will serve you well. NEMO.—You should not allow yourself to be influenced by the letter you have received, and you should merely place yourself in the hands of a firm of foreign bankers in London, whose address I have sent you. There is no reason for selling. J.B. LEAGUE MEMBER.—Have nothing to do with the people in question, but place yourself in communication with the respectable firm of foreign bankers, whose address I send by post, and who will, for a small charge, give you all the required information concerning the various Premium Bonds mentioned.

CALLS ON SHARES.—A. I.—None of the concerns in question are of any standing at all, and I should advise resisting the calls, if possible. At the same time, if legal proceedings are resorted to, I am afraid there would be no option but to pay up.

HOUSE BROKER.—MICKY.—Have nothing to do with this so-called Trust Company. They are merely outside brokers of a doubtful order. I send you, as requested, the name and address of a reliable stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange in London. This is far preferable to Manchester, which is really dependent, in a great measure, upon the London Stock Exchange. HENRY.—I do not advise dealing with the outside brokers mentioned by you. I, therefore, send you, as requested, name of a member of the Stock Exchange, who will be pleased to do small or large transactions for you. J. A. D. (Llandudno.—The concern with the high-sounding name which you mention is merely an outside broker who deals in blind pools. Have nothing to do with them. I have sent what you require in your envelope. SOLICITOR.—You should advise your lady client to have absolutely nothing to do with the special stock operations of these outside brokers. It is all the usual balderdash of "bucket-shops" which the circular contains. If she wants to deal on the Stock Exchange, I will be pleased to supply her with the name of a member of the Stock Exchange who will look faithfully after her interests. With regard to South African Gold Trust Ordinary, they should certainly be held for a rise.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICAN MINES.—T. F. T. W.—As requested, I have sent you the name of a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange. Amongst the eight classes of shares mentioned by you, I name the following as the most promising:—Randfontein South (2), New British Transvaal (4), and Prestea Mines (8).

PRESTEA MINES.—DELTA.—As requested, I have handed your letter to a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange, who will write to you on the subject. Prestea Mines are very hopeful amongst West Africans. (2) The last meeting was held about two months abo, and the crushing stage of the Prestea Block "A" should be reached in three or four months.

W. E. WATTS AND CO., LTD.—MACREDDISH.—I am surprised to hear that your friend—an old lady now in very low water—cannot obtain information from this firm concerning the money which she has invested in the same. She has a right to see the balance-sheet, and she will have to employ a solicitor, if a peremptory request does not have the desired effect.

GERSON, HAMSON AND COMPANY, LIMITED.—You do not appear to have seen the special notice which appeared in JOHN BULL on November 27th, stating that, as complaints have been received that all claims had not been settled, the advertisement had been stopped. The people have now levanted, and cannot be found, although diligent search has been made after them.

DOUBTFUL MINING SHARES.—Not only is there no market and no quotations for any of the shares mentioned, but the only one recorded in the usual books of reference is the *Rooderand Gold Mining Company*, which is still dragging on a precarious existence, having a balance to its debit at the end of 1908 of about £61,500.

WEST AFRICAN MINES.—HOW.—Yes, there is every prospect of these mines enjoying an important rise this year. The price of Prestea Mines is 9s. 6d., of Prestea Block "A" 34s. As requested, I forward the name of a respectable stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange.

HUDSONS CONSOLIDATED.—SOUTHGATE.—This new company has gone off well, and the shares are quoted at a small premium. The fully paid shares are quoted 1 3-16—5-16 for special settlement, and the 10s. paid 1-16 dis. to 1-16 pm. for special settlement. The rubber shares mentioned by you seem almost high enough, and West Jequié would be preferable. As requested, I have sent you the name of a reliable firm of stockbrokers, members of the Stock Exchange, who will serve you well.

SIMMER AND JACK EAST.—J. W. (Shepherds Bush).—These shares are not progressive, and while I do not advise selling at present price, you had better make your average in another share, say in Simmer Deep at 20s., or in Rand Collieries at 1⅞, or Cinderella Deep at 2⅜.

GREAT BOULDER PROPRIETARY.—BUXTON.—These shares are an excellent investment. They pay 9d. per quarter, and the price is only 23s. Latest development reports are favourable.

STRAITS BERTAM RUBBER.—BOCKY.—Having bought your Straits Bertam at so low a price as 33s. 6d., you can well afford to take your profit now. They had jumped very fast, and touched 66s., but are now quoted 63s. Sell. United Serdang are now 4 5-16, and having bought at 3 1-16, you might also take your profit in these. There will be fresh opportunities.

ZAMBESIA EXPLORATION.—ABERDEEN.—It is rather a small number of shares to buy, but I have sent you the address of a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange, who will be prepared to do what he can for you.

YANKEES AND MINES.—WOODSTOCK.—I have sent you the address of a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange, who would be prepared to undertake small speculative business, but no "House" broker can do business on three months' settlements. Your other terms they would no doubt comply with. As a matter of principle, I do not recommend outside brokers.

RANDFONTEIN SHARES.—J. K. E.—You are quite right to single out Randfontein Central and Randfontein South as promising investments. In the course of this year both will pay good dividends, and prices should improve.

BRITISH AND S.A. NAVIGATION DEBENTURES.—This is a Liverpool concern, under the auspices of Messrs. Houston and Co. No information is now obtainable as regards the position of the company, which fact does not inspire confidence. Nor is there any market for the debentures. Perhaps you can get a member of the Liverpol Stock Exchange to sell them for you. I am afraid you will not be able to do this in London.

ATLANTIC, QUEBEC AND WESTERN.—H. M. (Cambridge).—(1) The address of a suitable firm is forwarded in your envelope. (2) I do not advise dealings with them. (3) Interest has been paid to date, but the bonds have a certain speculative character, and a considerable portion of the system is under construction. Nor is there any quotation for the bonds at present.

GREAT BOULDERS.—TIMID.—(1) To the best of my knowledge, the Great Boulder Proprietary continues to prosper, and you have evidently not allowed for the fact that you have been getting 9d. per share quarterly dividend. The shares are dull, owing to the general lethargy of the Westralian market. (2) *El Oros* seem to be rather high now.

£300 FOR KAFFIRS.—SAFETY.—As a speculative investment you cannot do much better than spread the £300 in question over Crown Mines, Langlaagte Estate, and Randfortein South, whose dividends have increased rather than otherwise; also Kleinfontein, Meyer and Charlton, and Goch. (2) I should advise a withdrawal of this amount. (4) Gilt-edged Colonial Bonds, such as Cape or Australian issues.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.—P. B. F.—Nos. 1 to 3 are fair Newspaper Preference holdings, but not absolutely safe. Lipton Prefs. (4) are all right of their class, and Japanese Four per Cent. of 1905 (5) are very promising. The small account with the bank (6) should be safe enough. You cannot get an absolutely safe investment to yield 5 per cent., but the following should answer your purpose:—Rhodesia Railways First Mortgage 5 per cent. debentures at 98, Hull and Barnsley Railway Ordinary at 56; also some of the Argentine Railways, which, after allowing for possible reductions of dividends, will still give the yield you require, notably Central Argentine at 99, B.A. Great Southern at 122½, B.A. Western 125½.

BUILDING SOCIETY.—HEATHER.—As far as I know there is nothing against this society, but, in my opinion, it is far better, instead of depositing money with them, to invest it in sound securities, to yield from 4 to 5 per cent. If you wish it, I will give you a selection of stocks, and also name a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange, to carry your orders out.

CYMRIC GOLD MINING ASSOCIATION.—R. J.—Nothing is known here about this concern, which, apparently, is situated near Denver, Colorado. Don't touch it, therefore.

SPECULATIVE TRUST SYSTEM.—M. K. A.—(1) These are outside dealers, and the system is a dangerous one, nor do I know anything of these persons. The business is located in the West End, and not in the City. (2) I think you had much better keep the money in your pocket. (3) When you have saved a little more money, you can deal with a member of the Stock Exchange, whose address I am sending you.

RINK SHARES.—GAG.—It certainly seems to be very dilatory, but you might as well realise your profit. No doubt the shares are being dealt in for special settlement.

RANDFONTEIN CENTRAL, SOUTH.—C. L.—(1) Both Randfontein Central and Randfontein South are excellent purchases in the South African division. (2) Certainly, you can buy 25 to 30 of these shares. I send you the address of a firm of stockbrokers, as requested.

BELGIAN INDUSTRIEL.—E. G. W. D.—No information is available here regarding the Compagnie Industrielle de Belgique. I send you the address of a firm of foreign bankers who will supply the information in question for a small fee.

WEST AFRICANS.—COPPERAS.—Both mines are promising. (1) Yes. (2) No. (3) I send you the address of a suitable firm. (4) Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange, London, E.C., publish such works.

BUILDING SOCIETY.—CHARLTON.—What has to be taken into consideration is whether any difficulty is experienced in getting the money out when required, and without undue delay. Some of these building societies have been badly hit of late by the land depression. I should prefer investment in marketable and sound securities. (2) This address is forwarded as requested. (3) You can do better elsewhere, Home Rails, for instance, which would, moreover, give a better yield.

3 PER CENT. SECURITY.—NORTHERN.—As Consols can now be bought to yield about 3 per cent., this stock should just be suitable for your proposed investment of £200, and, of course, it would be accepted without question by a bank as security for a loan.

£300 FOR INVESTMENT.—CLERK.—The following selection should suit you:—Port Talbot 4 per cent. Preference £10 shares at 10, North London Railway Second 1875 Preference, 4½ per cent., at 110, Canadian Northern 4 per cent. Perp. Cons. Debenture stock, at 98.

SHEBA.—DUIET.—Shebas are very speculative, even for a mining share, but latest developments on the property show that the shares have still plenty of possibilities. As regards other promising mining shares, I still think well, for instance, of Prestea Mines.

MOLASSINE MEAL.—BRITON.—There is no market for the Ordinary shares, while the Preference shares, although getting 7 per cent. cumulative dividend, stand at only 13-16. The dividend on the Ordinary shares for 1908-9 was 5 per cent., as compared with 10 per cent. for the previous year. A highly speculative holding

£1,000 FOR INVESTMENT.—The following selection should suit you:—North London Railway Second Preference, 1875, 4½ per cent., at 110; Canadian Northern 4 per cent. Debentures, at 98; D. H. Evans and Co. 4½ Debentures, at 109; Lipton 4 per cent. Debentures, at 100; J. Lyons and Co. 4½ per cent. Debentures, at 109; Pease and Partners Second 5 per cent. Debentures, at 103. I send you the address asked for of a reliable firm of stockbrokers.

GRAND TRUNK STOCKS.—ARGENTUM.—I take an unfavourable view of Grand Trunk stocks, as the financial position is strained, and part of the Preference interest will probably be passed temporarily.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 67, Long Acre, W.C.

British Key and Property Registry, Ltd.—W. S. C. (Chester).—The capital is £6,000, in 4,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, and £2,000 preference shares of like denomination. The bulk of the capital has been issued. The preference shares carry a dividend of 7 per cent., and last year 20 per cent., was paid on the 4,000 ordinary shares.

Accident and Sickness Insurance.—S. M. (Stoke Newington).—We have had a good many complaints about tardy payment by this company, and we should advise you to select another.

Liverpool and Victoria Friendly Society.—D. M. (Brixton).—We have your letter, and take note of your experience with the society.

Insurance Agency.—Kenilworth (Handsworth).—We do not know what you can do except make application to some insurance company. It will be uphill work until you have some sort of connection.

Status of Company.—A. M. (London).—Neither of the companies you mention is in the front rank. J. A. M.—It is a comparatively young and small Company, but quite sound.

Liability upon Insurance.—Et Arte Et Marte (Jersey).—If the facts are as you state, the directors would appear to have been guilty of negligence, and if so, they can be proceeded against. How was the money handed to the Treasurer? In the form of a cheque?

Two Companies.—S. A. M. (Stoke Newington).—Of the two societies you name we should much prefer the Liverpool Victoria Insurance Corporation, Ltd. The fee you mention was not, as you say, enclosed in your letter.

The National and Co-Operative Assurance Corporation, Limited.—W. C. (Bradford).—The whole point is whether the statement of the manager that your friend is not eligible to claim compensation, since he had not kept up his payments, is true or not. Upon the receipts you send us it seems he had paid his subscription regularly, and that nothing was due when the accident occurred. You should press the Corporation for an explanation of the statement in their letter of January 30th, and let us know the result. We return the papers.

London and Lancashire Life Assurance Company.—D. R. E. (Rangoon).—The company was founded in 1862, and is a proprietary office. Its capital is £100,000, and 90 per cent. of the profits belong to the new policy-holders. It has a net income of about £410,000 per annum, and funds amounting to £2,263,804.

Life Policy.—T. H. (Cardiff).—Of the three companies you name the one you number 3 would give you the best terms.

Law, Car and General Insurance Corporation.—M. O. (Deptford).—Yes, certainly.

North Eastern Insurance Company, Ltd.—J. G. and Co. (Shettleston).—Without suggesting anything to the prejudice of the company, we think you might make a better selection.

The Law Life Assurance Society, Ltd.—H. B. (Brighton).—So far as we we can see, the transfer to the Phœnix is likely to be advantageous to both offices. The terms are equivalent to a payment of £26 for each Law Life share, and as these have been lately quoted at £20—£21, the transfer should commend itself to the majority of shareholders in the Law Life. On the other hand, it will be useful in providing the Phœnix with new sources of Fire and Accident revenue.

First Dutch Insurance Co.—A. L. (Sheffield).—The company may be relied upon to carry out its undertakings.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over until next week.)

UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL.

Issue of £10,000,000 4 per cent. United States of Brazil Government Bonds.

This loan will be applied for the conversion and redemption of the Western of Minas Railroad Company 5 per cent. Guaranteed Loan of 1893 as well as the United States of Brazil Government 5 per cent. Loan of 1907, and also for the extension and construction of railways in the States of Ceara and Piauhy.

The President of the United States of Brazil having, in conformity with the authority contained in Article 68, Number 8 of Law No. 2,221 of the 30th December, 1909, and in execution of Decree No. 7,669, of the 18th November, 1909, issued by virtue of the authorisation contained in Nos. 9 and 24, letter *d*, of Article 16 of the Law No. 2,050 of the 31st December, 1908, and also in conformity with Decree No. 7,853, dated the 3rd February, 1910, authorised the negotiation of the above Loan, Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons have to announce that they are ready to receive subscriptions at their office.

Subscriptions may be made either in cash, or in Bonds of the above-mentioned Loans.

Applications for the new Bonds, in exchange for Bonds of the above-mentioned Loans, will be received on Monday, the 7th instant, and on the five following days, viz., until Monday, the 14th instant, at 4 p.m., when the lists will be finally closed. No subscriptions will be received on Saturday.

The conversion will be effected as follows:—

Subscribers in Bonds will receive allotment in full.

The 4 per cent. Bonds are issued at the price of 87½. In the conversion every £100 of 5 per cent. Stock will be reckoned at par, and a bonus of 10s. will be given on every £100 converted, the holders of the 5 per cent. Western of Minas Railway Bonds receiving in addition accrued interest from 1st September, 1909. Thus, every holder of a £100 5 per cent. Western of Minas Bond will, on converting, receive in exchange a £100 4 per cent. Bond and £13 in cash, plus £2 5s. (less income tax) in adjustment of accrued interest, and every holder of a £100 5 per cent. Bond of the Loan of 1907 will, on converting, receive in exchange a £100 4 per cent. Bond and £13 in cash; but for cash differences on large amounts of Bonds, subscribers may elect to have new Bonds, the fractional surplus only being regulated by a cash payment; this option must be exercised when subscribing.

The repayment at par, but without the bonus of 10s. per cent., of all the Bonds not presented for conversion will be officially notified at the earliest possible date.

The 5 per cent. Bonds to be converted must be listed on forms, which can be obtained on application, and must be furnished with all the coupons not yet due.

Application must be made on form provided herewith, and accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent. in money or an approximate amount in convertible Bonds, unless subscribers prefer to deposit the whole of their Bonds when making application. The failure to deliver the Bonds converted, when the scrip is ready to be given in exchange, will render the deposit on application liable to forfeiture.

The list for cash subscriptions will be opened on Monday, the 7th instant, and closed on or before Monday, the 14th instant. No subscriptions will be received on Saturday.

Subscriptions are payable as follows:—

For every £100 stock,	£5	0	0	on application.
	15	0	0	on allotment.
	15	0	0	on the 4th April, 1910.
	15	0	0	on the 9th May, 1910.
	15	0	0	on the 9th June, 1910
	22	10	0	on the 18th July, 1910.
	£87	10	0	

Payment in full may be made under discount at the rate of £3 per cent. per annum on any Monday or Thursday after the scrip has been issued.

Interest will commence from the 1st February, 1910.

Allotments will be made as far as the Bond subscription will permit. In case the allotment should not require the whole deposit, the surplus will be returned; and if the deposit be insufficient for the first instalment on the amount allotted, the balance required must be paid forthwith. In case of no allotment being made, the deposit of the applicant will be returned.

The failure to pay any of the instalments will render all previous payments liable to forfeiture.

The Bonds will be issued to Bearer in sums of £100, £300, and £1,000 each, bearing interest at 4 per cent. per annum, with coupons payable half-yearly on the 1st February and 1st August in London in pounds sterling, and in Paris, Amsterdam, Hamburg and Brussels at the exchange of the day, the first half-yearly coupon being due on the 1st August, 1910.

The redemption of the Loan will be effected by an accumulative Sinking Fund of ¼ per cent. per annum, commencing in 1911, to be applied by purchase of Bonds when the price is under par, and when at or above par by drawings by lot.

Forms of application under both conditions are provided herewith, and it is expressly stipulated that any applicant having elected to pay, either in cash or in Bonds, cannot alter his engagement.

New Court
7th February, 1910.

No..... **A**

APPLICATION FOR CONVERSION OF BRAZILIAN 5 PER CENT. BONDS.

To Messrs. N. M. ROTHSCHILD AND SONS.

Gentlemen,

.....request that you will convert for.....

£.....Nominal Capital of the Western of Minas Railroad 5 per cent. Loan of 1893.

£.....Nominal Capital of the Brazilian 5 per cent. Loan of 1907.

Total £.....into Brazilian 4 per cent. Bonds, on which I enclose the required deposit,

viz.: { £.....in Cash / or / £.....in Bonds, } and.....agree to deliver to you in exchange for the allotment of 4 per cent. Bonds, the necessary 5 per cent. Bonds according to the conditions of your Prospectus of the 7th February, 1910.

.....remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant ,

Name (at length).....

Address.....

February, 1910.

I request you to allot me as many additional 4 per cent. Bonds as the amount of the cash difference due to me on the above application will permit.

.....

No..... **B**

FORM OF APPLICATION.
(Cash Subscription.)

UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL GOVERNMENT 4 per cent. CONVERSION LOAN of 1910.

To Messrs. N. M. ROTHSCHILD AND SONS.

Gentlemen,

.....request that you will allot to.....£.....

say.....nominal Capital of the above Stock, on which.....enclose the required deposit of five per cent., or £....., and.....agree to accept that amount or any less sum that may be allotted to.....and to pay the balance of such allotment according to the conditions of your Prospectus of the 7th February, 1910.

.....remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant ,

Name (at length).....

Address.....

February, 1910.

HUMAN DOCUMENT—LXXVI.

We have received the following appeal :—

I appeal for my sister's husband, who is not aware that I am writing you. He has served seven years in the Municipal Tramway Offices at Leyton and Plaistow (Greengate Street), and through a reduction taking place in the staff he was forced to leave just as his wife was being confined of her third child.

He is thirty-two years of age, knows French, can type-write, has a knowledge of bookkeeping and shorthand, and can handle money.

The poor fellow has now been out of a berth for five weeks, and his home is going piece by piece. Could you use your great influence in any way to get him a situation ?

We have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of 5s. from J. C. P., Forest Hill, and 5s. from "A Friend of Spain," for the benefit of the Spanish editor who has been forced, owing to his outspokenness, to take refuge in this country and is now in a destitute condition. A request from a reader for lessons in the Spanish language has also been passed on.

With reference to our paragraph *re* the old soldier who had pawned his medals for 10s. and appealed for help to recover them, we have to acknowledge the following monies which have been forwarded :—2s., "Joyce"; 1s., F. M.; 1s., G. R. R. P.; 2s. 6d., T. G. P.; 2s. 6d., A. D.; 2s. 6d., W. A. M.; 1s., Britisher. This covers the sum required to redeem the medals.

MY FAVOURITE NOVEL.

ALLEGED ANSWERS OF SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE : "Hard Cash." By Charles Read.
MR. URE : "All Men are Liars." By Joseph Hocking.
LIEUT. PEARY : "North and South." By Mrs. Gaskell.
DR. COOK : "How I Discovered the North Pole." By Lieut. Peary.
MR. EDISON : "Many Inventions." By Rudyard Kipling.
LORD ROSEBERY : "Under Two Flags." By Ouida.
G. B. SHAW : "Struggle for Fame." By Mrs. J. H. Riddell.
MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL : "Manchester Rebels." By W. H. Ainsworth.
MRS. PANKHURST : "By Woman's Wit." By Mrs. Alexander.
MR. H. G. WELLS : "Under the Red Flag." By M. E. Braddon.
LORD LANSDOWNE : "The Crisis." By Winston Churchill.
MR. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN : "The Imperialist." By Sara Jeanette Duncan.
SIR THOMAS LIPTON : "The Flitch of Bacon." By W. H. Ainsworth.
THE EDITOR OF THE *Daily Mail* : "The Sentimentalists." By R. H. Benson.
MR. ROBERT BLATCHFORD : "The Patriot." By A. Fogazzaro.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

"JOHN BULL'S" GREETINGS.

February 10th.—LORD CHARLES BERESFORD.

If you wish in this world to advance,
Your merits you're bound to enhance;
You must stir it and stump it,
And blow your own trumpet,
Or, trust me, you haven't a chance.—*W. S. Gilbert.*

February 11th.—THOMAS ALVA EDISON.

The art of invention grows young with the things invented.
—*Bacon.*

HAVE any of our readers had dealings with the British Freehold Investments, Ltd., who opened up Eastcote, Middlesex, some months ago ?

EAT MORE FISH

But be sure to get it from GRIMSBY the Premier Fishing Port. Choice assorted Hampers containing 6 lbs., 2s.; 9 lbs., 2s. 6d.; 11 lbs., 3s.; 21 lbs., 5s. Cleaned and carriage paid. List and particulars free. Send to the Pioneers of the industry for best quality and value. THOUSANDS OF DELIGHTED CUSTOMERS.

LIVE FISH COMPANY, 19, Fish Docks Grimsby.

WINTOGEN
(Salicylate derivatives)
THE NEW REMEDY FOR MUSCULAR PAIN
Gives Immediate Relief
IN
RHEUMATISM
LUMBAGO
GOUT
Sciatica, Arthritis, Stiff Neck, Earache, Neuralgia, Headache, Pains in Shoulder Muscles, Bruises, Sprains, Stiffness after Racing, Football, etc., or wherever there is Nerve Pain.

Squeeze a little on your hand &

Price 1s. 1½d.
obtainable from all Chemists and large Stores.

FREE Send for free Sample tube, enclose 2d. for postage and packing, and mention this paper to

ANGLO-AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY, LTD.,
59, Dingwall Road, CROYDON, or Chichester Chambers, Chancery Lane, LONDON.

A Suggestion.

That instead of discarding that old suit, you send it to us to be scientifically dry-cleaned in the Achille Serre way.

Send it to us now and it will be returned to you within a few days ready for immediate use, and looking almost new.
Our charge is only 3/9.
We are prepared to do necessary repairs, reline, supply new buttons, etc., at a very moderate cost.
'Phone to 1265 East or drop us a card to-day for the address of our nearest branch or agency, and a copy of our booklet "Clothes and the Man."

Achille Serre Ltd.,
(Nettoyage a sec)
White Post Lane, Hackney Wick, London, E.
Carriage Paid one way on all orders sent direct.

CAN WE

ASSIST YOU? LOANS GRANTED WITHOUT DELAY.
From £20 to £5,000.
A written promise to pay only necessary. Without Sureties or Security.
NO FEES OR FINES. Distance no object. Easy repayments.
Strictest privacy.
WILLIAM STANLEY & CO., 271 & 272, Oxford Street, London, W.
Information readily given. Phone, Gerrard 6087.

I HAVE NOTHING TO SELL.

I was a martyr to Rheumatism and Gout for years. Having been positively cured by a simple and inexpensive remedy, I will be happy to communicate particulars of same to any sufferer, on receipt of an addressed envelope. Apply to W. Leighton, Esq., 9, Rigby Mansions, Hammersmith, London, W.

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

President—Horatio Bottomley, Esq., M.P.

Objects: To stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to create a robust and self-reliant Public Opinion; and to promote a Common Sense, Business Government for a Common Sense, Business People.

Readers desirous of joining the League must fill up the subjoined form and forward same to the Secretary, 67, Long Acre, London, W.C., or to their local Secretary as below.

All applicants whose forms were received up to the end of January, have been duly enrolled.

No Officer of the League, except the Organizing or Local Secretary, is, in any circumstances, authorized to solicit or receive subscriptions.

LIST OF LOCAL SECRETARIES.

Abergavenny	Mrs. F. M. Place, 72, Park Street.
Aldershot	C. Perry, 99, Waterloo Road.
Anerley	W. H. Jefferis, 48, Croydon Road.
Ashby-de-la-Zouch ..	A. W. Drewry, 25, Sonisby Road.
Birmingham	E. H. Hodgkinson, Gravelly Hill, Erdington.
„ Central	Chas. L. Kay, 155, Somerville Road.
„ Acocks Green ..	A. Ashton, Homelia, Arden Road.
„ Aston & Witton ..	A. Rowe, 219, Trinity Road.
„ Bordesley Green	C. T. Wilson, 24, St. Benedict's Road, Small Heath.
„ Erdington and Lozells	E. H. Hodgkinson, 98, Hunton Road, Gravelly Hill. Asst. Sec., A. R. Tye, 87, Hillaries Rd.
„ Handsworth .. and Smethwick	Frank Round, 92, Whateley Road. Asst. Sec. W. G. Mason, The Hermitage Beardwood.
„ King's Heath ..	A. T. Taylor, 3, Woodfield Road.
„ Small Heath ..	J. Parker Crees, 113, Aubrey Road.
„ Sparkhill and Balsall Heath	J. S. Savage, 62, Beach Road.
„ Yardley	F. Hockenhull, 226, Banks Road, Small Heath.
Blackheath	T. Callaway, 20, Montpelier Vale.
Bridlington, Yorks.	W. A. Young, 6, Clarence Terrace.
Bristol	H. H. Alton, Craigmoor, 28, Foycote Road.
„	F. H. Burgess, Glendenes, Hampstead Road, Brislington.
„	A. W. Godfrey, Canada House, Baldwin Street.
Brondesbury	A. M. Benscher, 6, Burton Road.
Bournemouth	E. Gosschalk, "Craigruie," Upper Terrace Rd.
Burnham	Frank Rowland, Bristol House.
Camberwell	T. Simberg, 80, Boyson Road.
Chatham	J. Long, 11, Meeting House Lane.
Chesterfield	H. O. Brown, The Old Rectory, Staveley.
Clapton Park, N.E. ..	H. R. Payne, 174, Rushmore Road.
Colchester	A. T. Ambrose, Garness Villa, Priory Grove.
Consett	W. Atthill, 14, Harlington Street.
Coventry	F. Hall, 2, Summer Terrace, Queen Victoria Rd.
„	F. Russell, Berkswell.
Deal	Alfred E. Rowland, Yew Street Inn, Mill Road.
Deptford	W. T. Payne, 193, Childere Street.
Derby	G. W. Borrill, 192, Almond Street.
Dublin	H. Chambers Malley, 18, Nassau Street.
Dumbarton, N.B. ..	A. Burton, 1, Chapelton Gardens.
Eastbourne	W. C. Palmer, 15, Beltmore Road.
Elgin	Geo. Ross, Achnaville, Bishopsmill.
Enfield	F. N. Geard, The Limes, Chaseside.
Fleetwood	Jack Johns, Galloway Road.
Forest Gate	J. H. Houston, 66, Neville Road.
Gateshead-on-Tyne ..	S. W. Taylor, 79, Rodsley Avenue.
Gloucester	F. E. King, Rosedale House, Minsterworth.
Hendon, W.	E. J. Gordon-Stevens, Homeleigh, Stanley Rd.
Highgate	F. K. Douglas, "Lyndale House," The Bank.
High Wycombe ..	George White, White Lion, Crendon Street.
Horsham	F. W. Sieberg, 10, Market Square.
Ipswich	E. A. Rands, "Bon Accord," Broomhill Road.
Kingston-on-Thames ..	A. H. Howard, 37, Fairfield South.
Leicester	Venice Ewart-Beard, The Hermitage, Coalville.
Lincoln	W. Whiting, 14, Montague Street.
Liverpool	J. Holden-Berry, Palace Chambers, 21, Victoria Street.
Maidstone	E. A. Tilby, Tonbridge Road.
Manchester	F. Wardle, 5, Woodland Road, Gorton.
„	E. Doren, 16, Hutchin Street, Phillips Park.
„	O. K. Shingler, 410, Abbey Hey Lane, Gorton.
Middlesbrough ..	John Ross, 114, Linthorpe Road.
Newcastle-on-Tyne ..	W. H. Rice, 51, Dilston Road.
Murrayfield	A. McDonald, 11, Murrayfield Place.
Norwich	S. H. Robinson, 35, St. Philips Road.
Penarth	H. W. Newman, 20, Dock Road.
Ramsgate	R. V. Crow, 39, Harbour Street.
Reading	J. Stanley Jennings, 20, Lincoln Road.
Reigate	W. Moore, "Walcot," Beaufort Road.
Redhill, Surrey ..	J. Derbyshire, 29, Clarendon Road.
Rhondda, Glam. ..	D. K. Harris, 6, Lyesha Street, Ystrad.
Sheffield	F. Wharton, 74, Morpeth Street.
„	B. H. Tubbs, 53, Idsworth, Picksmoor.
Southampton	H. Airdrie Venton, 25, Castle Square.
South Hackney ..	W. G. Blakeley, Elm Lodge, Gascoyne Road.
Stafford	Edwin Arnott, 90, Peel Terrace.
Stoke Newington ..	S. T. Pznechner, 2, Martaban Road, Manor Rd.
Sutton, Surrey ..	R. Younghusband, "Bassa," Parkhurst Road.
Swindon, Wilts. ..	H. F. Crawley, Linden Cottage, 44, Prospect Hill.
Tamworth	Captain P. Clarson, Millfield House.
Treharris, Glam. ..	C. P. Jones, 7, Treharne Terrace.
Twyford, Berks. ..	M. J. Jarvis, Solicitor.
„	H. Sheridan Bickers, Knowle Hill.
Victoria Park, N.E. ..	A. H. Carstairs, 39, Crawley Road.
Walsall	F. Levinge, Brace Street.
Weston-super-Mare ..	H. Jones, 30, St. James' Street.
Windsor	S. Vincent, Woodbine Cottage.
Wolverhampton ..	H. E. Whitehouse, Old Windmill House.
Worcester	F. Lewis, 148, Enville Street, Stourbridge

A further list will be published in future issues.

League Badges and words and music of the League Song may be obtained from the Local Secretaries.

Special Notice.

Pending the completion of various matters connected with the formation of the League—which have been somewhat interrupted by the General Election—it is desirable that branches should postpone arranging for public meetings, and should confine their attention to increasing the local membership.

SOME BRANCH REPORTS.

Bristol.—Here, as, indeed, in all "League" centres, the greatest enthusiasm prevailed when the splendid majority of our President at Hackney was made known. Members are being made wholesale, and it has been decided to organise a banquet to celebrate the glorious victory.

Elland (Yorks).—Our Elland correspondent complains that some of the clergy, supporting the local candidates, have indulged in the practice of introducing quotations from hymns into their speeches. Our correspondent points out that the *Halifax Evening Courier* reproduces a paragraph from the columns of John Bull without any acknowledgment.

Lewisham.—Our Lewisham representative quotes the classics. He writes: "Many congratulations to our President on his great Parliamentary triumph. He will now be able to plead our cause in the House."

"Dicam insigne, recens, adhuc
Indictum ore alio."—*Horace.*

("I will utter something striking, something fresh, something as yet unsung by another's lips.")

Ramsgate.—Since the glorious victory of our President the League Badges have been seen everywhere, and it is hoped that in the near future the Isle of Thanet will be honoured by a visit from him. An enthusiastic welcome awaits him when he is able to give us the privilege of listening to him.

Reading.—Our local secretary has been actively engaged during the election in investigating the claims of the various candidates, and points out that both sides made use of very bad language. Many utterances are quoted; but as ours is a family journal, it is impossible for us to reproduce them.

Sheffield.—The League continues to flourish in this district, and the newsboys eagerly look forward to Thursdays, as they find the John Bulls go like wildfire, and are soon sold out. Please come along this way, Mr. President. We are all anxious to see and listen to you.

Wolverhampton.—The League continues to grow in public favour in this district, and signs of its popularity are more evident every day.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Please enrol me as a Member of the John Bull League.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

NEW TURKISH CIGARETTE

OF EXQUISITE AROMA AND FLAVOUR.

BOLD TRADE BID WITH PRICES HALF LESS THAN USUAL FOR SAME QUALITY.

The whole world wants more Turkish tobacco than Turkey can produce—hence the high prices for Turkish Cigarettes—hence, too, the interest that will be excited by the present bold bid of a British firm to secure instant popularity for the new high-class "El Hamur" Turkish Cigarettes at about half the prices usually charged for the same high quality.

No effort has been spared by the Company to make "El Hamur" Cigarettes please the keenest connoisseurs of Turkish Cigarette values.

Extraordinary arrangements—such as exist in no other cigarette-makers' works—have been made.

Specially invented machinery, specially devised rules and regulations governing both staff and plant, have all been carefully thought out and put in operation solely with the view to insuring that "El Hamur" Cigarettes shall at once jump into favour with the cigarette connoisseur.

The Turkish tobacco used in "El Hamur" Cigarettes is treated with as much consideration of its delicate qualities as are diamonds in a polishing works, or as gold in a jeweller's manufactory.

The reason for this unusual care in the making of "El Hamur" Cigarettes is that the best Turkish tobacco loses some of its finest flavour qualities if improperly treated in any of the stages of its making into cigarettes.

No tobacco leaf is so tender as the leaf of the best Turkish tobacco. A small bruise will cause the leaf to literally weep away its exquisite flavour.

Every cigarette smoker who tries one of the boxes of "Trial 25's" of "El Hamur" Cigarettes will understand this, for to one and all will be revealed a new and multiplied cigarette-smoking pleasure.

NOTE!

There are wide differences in the qualities, even of the true Turkish-grown article. Turkey is a land of both wonderfully rich and extraordinarily poor soils. It is the golden rich soil of certain comparatively small areas that produces the exquisitely flavoured quality which has earned for Turkish tobacco the highest place in the consideration of the cigarette connoisseur. Just as no art of man can construct the diamond, so no human skill can equal the product of certain nature-endowed Turkish lands.

It is this "tobacco of tobaccos" that is now available to British cigarette smokers under the name of "El Hamur."

ENTERPRISING TOBACCONISTS WHO WILL MEET THE RUN ON THE NEW "EL HAMUR" HIGH-CLASS TURKISH CIGARETTE.

Then the paper with which every "El Hamur" is wrapped is of a new and special kind, quite free from the faults of the paper used in the making of other cigarettes.

Light one "El Hamur."

Next light a "Turkish" cigarette of any other make you like.

Note the difference in the aroma.

Note the exquisite flavour of the "El Hamur"—a soft, silky, sensuously satisfying pleasure on the smoker's tongue and lips.

It is a revelation of what the best Turkish tobacco means—a revelation that the "El Hamur" Cigarette Co. will feel deeply gratified to have every cigarette smoker (certainly every cigarette connoisseur) test and try.

The new "El Hamur" Cigarettes are carefully graded in the following three classes:—

	FOR TRIAL 25	50	100
No. 1 (special) Large Size. ...	2/6	5/-	10/-
No. 2 Extra)	2/-	4/-	8/-
No. 3 (superfine) Per 10 6d.	1/3	2/6	5/-

Every smoker who can appreciate a fine quality Turkish Cigarette should get a "trial 25 box" from his Tobacconist.

Every good-class Tobacconist will supply "El Hamur" Cigarettes. If any difficulty in obtaining kindly write—for your own smoking-satisfaction—direct to "El Hamur" Cigarette Co. (branch of Carreras, Ltd.) 7 Wardour Street, London, W.

Better Paying Work!

If you want to enter a new and better paying industry or to rise in your present work read this.

Student S. Frank writes to the International Correspondence Schools:—

"I am holding a position which I could not have done before I enrolled in the I.C.S. I am making practical use of the knowledge gained in my Course, and shall always remember with pleasure the time spent in going through the Course. It has been a great advantage to the increase of my earnings."

Similar letters come from men of all positions and callings—men, young and old, who by means of the I.C.S. spare-time training-at-home through the post have risen from one position to another, from low paid posts to highest paid ones.

No matter what you are doing now, write us what you would like to do. By return we will show you how you can, and refer you to others who have. No charge or obligation.

OVER 120 COURSES TO CHOOSE FROM.

International Correspondence Schools,
(Dept. 250-K) International Buildings, Ltd., Kingsway, London, W.C.

A Remedy for Heartburn and Acidity

—A FREE TRIAL—

During the past few months Messrs. Savory and Moore have offered a free trial box of Dr. Jenner's Absorbent Lozenges to sufferers from Heartburn, Flatulence, Acidity, etc. Of the thousands who availed themselves of this offer many have since taken the trouble to relate their experience of the lozenges.

The evidence thus received as to their value is so conclusive and so obviously genuine that Messrs. Savory and Moore are encouraged to continue their offer of a free trial box, being convinced that it will afford those who have not yet tried Dr. Jenner's Absorbent Lozenges ample proof of their remarkable efficacy.

When applying mention "John Bull," and send 1d. for postage to Savory and Moore, Ltd., Chemists to The King, 143, New Bond Street, London.

DR. JENNER'S
Absorbent LOZENGES

WHY IS FLIRTING LIKE PLATE POWDER? Ask

THE "WIRELESS WONDER."

A Mysterious Novelty which will give you and your friends hours of genuine amusement.

Of course you must first get a "Wireless Wonder." Then put the question to it. Without any hesitation, the uncanny finger enclosed in the glass covered box will start slowly moving, and when it stops and points—read your answer. It will be correct and it will be funny. It will make you laugh and it will make your friends laugh too. There's lots of fun in the "Wireless Wonder" for you, scores of questions to be asked and answered. Send for one at once, it will earn its price the first evening you use it, by giving genuine whole-hearted pleasure.

1/2 POST FREE

THE B TELLER NOVELTY CO., 23, Peartree St, Goswell Road, London, E.C.

THE HURLY BURLY.

By Theodore Dahle.

COMPULSORY MARRIAGE AND THE RAISON D'ETRE.

The *New York American* is one of those papers which exists only to spread the truth and the light, so when I read in its columns that Mr. George W. Da Cunha intends to introduce into the New Jersey Legislature a Compulsory Marriage Lottery Bill I feel bound to treat the announcement with all the attention it deserves. It is not revealed whether Mr. Da Cunha is married; all I know about him is that he is a retired architect who has made his pile by building sky-scrapers in New York.

The essence of Mr. Da Cunha's Bill is that every healthy man over 30, and every healthy woman over 25, must marry, whether they want to or not, and I quite see that all the old maids of New Jersey would want to; indeed, I can see them rushing up to the lottery in their thousands conscious that they are almost as good as ever. The lottery will be held by the Mayor of each New Jersey municipality every year. I have been in lotteries myself. I once bought a ticket in a Hamburg lottery entitling me to 500,000 marks if I won, and I am still waiting for a remittance. I have paid as much as twopence for a dip into a lucky tub and drawn nothing more than an acid drop. At our club last Christmas I bought ten half-crown tickets and won a ten-penny bottle of claret. I am down for the next sweepstake, and shall probably not even draw a starter. I say this in order to show you that I don't object to lotteries on principle. If I were a single man, and had to draw a wife in a lottery, it is a thousand to one my prize wouldn't be a chicken, or a peach, or a drawing-room ornament, or a bank. Luck never comes my way.

There is nothing complicated about Mr. Da Cunha's lottery. In one box will be placed the names of the women, and in another box the names of the men; the names will be successively drawn against each other, and each drawing will constitute a marriage; in other words, if Romeo, aged 25, is drawn against Juliet, aged 72, he wins; the girl is his for life. Pardon me, I ought to qualify that. The marriage will be for life or on a three years' agreement, "according to whether there be issue or not." If there is nothing doing for the perambulator trade at the end of the third year the marriage is off, and parties have to go and try their luck at the next drawing. The defect of this rule is that the life sentences would be few and far between. Everybody, or nearly everybody, would take their goods on the three-year system, and have another draw.

Neither widows nor widowers are to be exempted under the Bill. A widow who has just drawn the old man's insurance money in the hope of having a long holiday, a widower who has had two wives, and now yearns for rest, will alike have to take a lottery ticket. All questions of personal preference are ruled out; neither race, temperament, suitability, nor social position is admitted as an excuse for absence from the drawing. Every unmarried man and woman in New Jersey must take their chance; and anybody found selling his tickets or swopping his winnings will be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law.

Mr. Da Cunha defends his idea with the vigour of a stern moralist. According to him, "the man or woman who fails to marry fails in the principal reason for existence." It may be; but I solemnly declare that, try as I may, I have down to this moment utterly failed to discover what the principal reason for existence is. Some people will tell you that the principal reason for existence is to get married, others that it is to enjoy yourself, and still others that it is to make the world better than we find it, though if that is so I think many of us would have been saved considerable trouble if it had been made all right at first. The only solution at which I have arrived is the purely negative one that if the world had never been made, and nobody had ever been born into it, everybody would have been just as well off, if not better. True, Adam and Madam were commanded to go forth and multiply; but if legend is veracious that was not the reason of their existence, but the punishment for making over-free with an apple tree. When I have gone deeper into the subject I expect I shall finally conclude that there never was any reason for our existence, and that the only object for which we struggled into it was to struggle out of it. However that may be, it remains for Mr. Da Cunha to convince the people of New Jersey that they will realise their principal reason for existence by his Compulsory Marriage Lottery Bill. Possibly he has been inspired to it by the saying of old Burton that marriages and hanging go by destiny. Certain it is that most people married by compulsory lot would better fulfil their destiny by getting hanged.

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The Oatine Preparations include several of special interest to men—notably Oatine Shaving Stick, and Oatine Shaving Cream. When it is remembered how the process of Shaving lays bare the pores of the skin it will be appreciated that the soothing, healing virtues of Oatine makes it very desirable for the double purpose of use in shaving (in the form of Oatine Shaving Stick or Cream) and after shaving (in the form of Oatine Face Cream). Even if the Soap or Cream alone be used, the use of the razor will not irritate or roughen the skin. A free and delightfully fragrant lather is yielded in abundance, which achieves the double purpose of assisting an easy shave and protecting the skin. We are confident that a single trial of the Oatine Shaving Soap will ensure its entire adoption.

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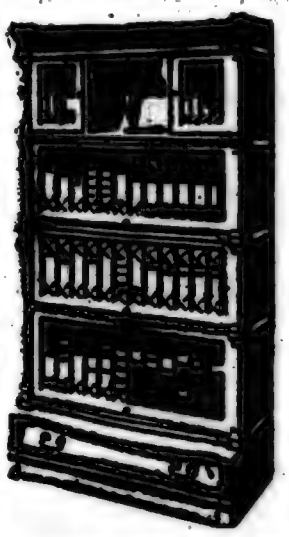

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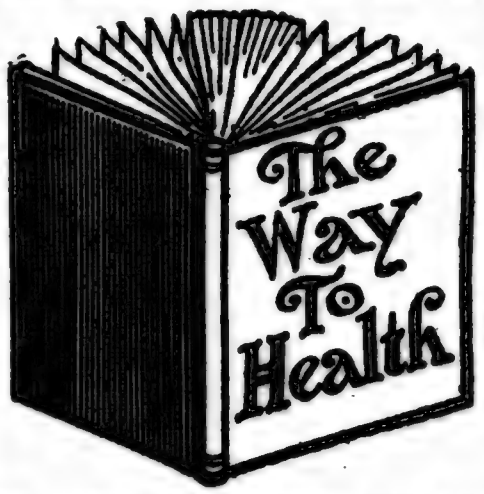
So declares Dr. Rudolf L. Muller, the well-known authority on mental and nervous diseases, and the author of several works dealing with the Nervous System and its derangements.

"There is far too much talk of muscle-and-body building, and far too little attention paid to the building up of the nervous system," he continued, "upon which not only the health but material personal success or failure depends.

"It is not muscle that we most require to-day, it is NERVE-STRENGTH and NERVE-POWER.

"I know big, muscular, robust-looking men to-day who are just bundles of nerves, who start the day with a 'livener,' who cannot face a business crisis without a 'stiffener,' who want a 'pick-me-up' when it is over, and who woo slumber with 'nightcaps' and 'deadly drugs.'"

There is a great truth revealed here. How many men and women to-day are nervous, hesitant, below par, lacking both in pace and stamina? How much do we hear of neurasthenia, insomnia, anæmia, depression, and kindred ailments—ailments that were quite unknown a few generations back? The fact is, modern conditions of life attack us in the most vital place, the nervous system.



Men and women grow old before they have learnt to live. They are really too old long before forty. Their very work reveals the fact.

How your Work reveals your Health.

It is so everywhere, and it is a regrettable fact that few men and women possess the nerve-force to-day necessary to perform their duties thoroughly, to face serious crises without stimulants or drugs, or even to enjoy their recreations as they ought to do. They lack Nerve Strength. They don't require physical culture—which often only builds up muscle without nerve—they need nerve-culture. Though not actually sick, they are weak, impotent, incompetent.

In one of his most popular books, "The Way to Health," Dr. Muller shows that the nerves are the life itself.

"The nerve-cells are the source of all power and energy. The muscular power of the strongest man is impotent if his nerves are helpless; in fact, every organ of the body fails when the nerves cease to perform their work. For example, the stomach may be in a condition of perfect health, yet, in consequence of nervous weakness, the food is not digested, and a complete breakdown with all its attendant evil consequences may be the result."

Why All Drugs Must Fail.

He then goes on to show that all phosphorus, iron, strychnine, and other drugs are, in such a lowered nervous condition, not only useless, but dangerous.

"People," he writes, "whose brains and energies have been severely taxed, whether by high pressure, worry, anxiety, or excess, are apt to fly to drugs or stimulants to avert the nervous break-up they instinctively feel is approaching.

"The problem of building up the weak or exhausted nervous fabric cannot, however, be solved by the taking of drugs or stimulants, or in a hurry, but only by steadily supplying to the starved nerve-cells the essential elements they have lost. **In fact, Dr. Muller emphatically maintains that any preparation claiming to regenerate wasted nerves by any but a gradual process of scientific nerve-feeding is either a Delusion or a Fraud.** The brain and nerve-cells need a certain kind of food, and so do the blood corpuscles, but when they are out of order, and the digestion is interfered with, the special food the brain nerve-cells need is not digested from the ordinary food eaten. Slowly but surely the brain nerve-cells atrophy and wither, and the man becomes mentally and physically incapable."

This book—which, by the way, can be obtained post free and gratis on application—then goes on to show how, after exhaustive and patient experiments, Dr. Muller succeeded in compounding a substance of practically the same composition as the phosphoric lymph which is the life and energy of the nerve tissues, their natural nutriment being duplicated with scientific precision.

Over 10,000 Medical Men.

Dr. Muller found that practically every disease is caused by starved brain-cells, and over 10,000 foremost medical men have now recognised that once you secure proper nourishment or up-building of the brain, nerve-cells, and rich, pure blood, complete restoration to perfect mental and physical vigour, and the absolute cure of diseases caused by mental breakdown, is a certain result. The restoration of health and full vital energy depends upon the perfect assimilation of the phosphoric material that is lacking.

Dr. Muller points out that his "New Life" Food is rapidly absorbed, and through the blood the exhausted nerve-cells are replenished with that vital nourishment so necessary in the building-up process. Every organ of the body is flooded with new vigour, and where there was functional weakness and failure there is re-created healthy functional activity.

Dr. Muller has written a book dealing specially with the nervous system, and how to increase nervous and vital power—a book that tells you how you can banish that distressed nervous feeling, how you can become mentally and physically vigorous, and how, instead of being old at forty, you can be young at sixty.

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Applications, which should be accompanied by one stamp only to cover postage of package, should be addressed to 70P, Dr. Muller's Laboratories, 61, New Oxford Street, London, W.C., or you can call personally at the Consulting Rooms at above address from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m., or from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m. (Saturdays 11 to 1).

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TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

Members of the Medical Profession sending their visiting cards will be supplied, Free of Charge, with a larger supply of Dr. Muller's Nutrient for experimental purposes, together with details of the constituents of the preparation.

"I GIVE AND BEQUEATH."

By Irene Miller.

THE VAGARIES OF TESTATORS.

Undeniable is the phrase that asserts "We brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out." Yet this belief in the poverty-stricken state of the spirits of even the wealthiest on earth, was quite contrary to the faith in ancient Egypt, or in the great Chinese Empire of the present day. On the demise of that wonderful old stateswoman, the Chinese Empress, the nation cheerfully expended hundreds of thousands of pounds simply on providing what it was thought would prove useful and acceptable to the Imperial lady in the world of ghosts. Numerous soldiers, servants, horses, coaches, etc., were made life-sized in *papier-maché* covered with gold leaf. These, after being paraded, were burnt to ashes in the belief that the spirits of these things would then be available for the service of the spirit of the Empress in another world. It was exactly the same sort of notion which caused the Egyptians of old to bury food, attire, furniture, etc., with the mummies.

But we of the West carry out none of these poetic sacrificial ceremonials. No attention was paid to the caprice of the wealthy Parisian who was found to have decreed that he should be buried in evening dress, including his priceless pink pearl studs. No, nowadays everything of value has to be bequeathed.

And what dramas, both in real life and in novels, hang around that "last will and testament." Already the lawsuit has started between the daughter and the morganatic wife of the late Belgian monarch, over the old man's practical disinheriting of his royal children. And many a man, with an Oriental leaning towards despotism, obtains for himself a subservience and a "pampering" equal to that accorded the patriarchs of old, by the simple fact that he can, on his death, leave the family in wealth or indigence according to his whim. At least, this absolute monarchy within the domestic circle is open to the Englishman. In bonnie Scotland the wife has a legal claim to a certain proportion of the inheritance, while, as we know, in France the property has to be equally divided among all the children.

Yet the English system of entail, and of complacently leaving all the other children so poorly off in comparison to the eldest son, strikes foreigners as being terribly rough luck on all concerned, except the heir himself, and there is one case in which it must be especially galling to the younger; that is—twins! Then the one who had the luck to arrive first (as, by the way, in the case of Lord Durham and his brother) gets the wealth, the position, the title and estate, if such there be, while his hour-younger brother remains a comparative nobody. The off-chance that the nurse made a mistake and confused the babies in the bath, must, one would think, just occasionally present itself to the mind.

Where the property is to be divided amongst a family of girls, there is not the same tendency to give practically all to the eldest—the shares are usually more equal, after the French system. True, the late Mr. Maynard, made an "eldest son" of the first-born of his daughters, bequeathing her everything he possibly could. But the heiress, now the Countess of Warwick, voluntarily handed over a large share to her younger sister, Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox.

It is very easy to be both dishonest and spiteful in the bequeathing direction. Many an artful dodger has allowed relations to take no end of care of him on the distinct understanding that such services should reap reward later, while the old party's death has shown that all his income had been sunk in an annuity. As to spitefulness, a man recently left his daughter, 25s. weekly for life on the condition that she never ventured to add to this meagre income by earning a single penny. Another very wealthy man, who left a large collection of treasures to the nation, endowed his daughter with a pound a week so long as she did not reside with her mother!

Mr. George Hodder, the father of the Chief Engineer of the *Waratah*, writes to us with reference to our remark as to the engines of the vessel. We had no thought of reflecting upon the capacity of Mr. Hodder, jun., who, we have no doubt, was a very capable officer.

"THE BOGUS VANDERBILT."

THE MULATTO EXPLAINS.

We notice that the *New York Times*, of January 30th, has a two column article upon this matter. It takes the form of an interview with "Fred Vanderbilt," and confirms in every particular the statement made in our columns respecting the bill transactions. The explanation given by Mr. "Vanderbilt," as he calls himself, is amusing. Having recapitulated the facts of the transactions as described by us, he goes on to say that the emeralds sold to the Prince were "purified emeralds," and that that was specially pointed out to the Prince. He admits that he was ordered to leave Vienna, but says the Austrian authorities would allow him to return there "if he abandoned the use of the name of Vanderbilt." But this, he says, he will never do. Having returned the Prince bills to the extent of £125,000, he and his friends still hold the rest of the bills amounting to £200,000, and he goes on to say:—

> As the emerald deal amounted to 625,000 dollars, I handed to King the remaining one million dollars in bills, which represented the purchase price to be paid him for the 50,000 copper shares.

Elsewhere he says that the bills for £200,000 were given by the Prince for "50,000 shares in a copper mine situated in the North of England," for which King was willing to accept the Prince's bills.

This latter transaction is on a par with the rest. The Prince is required to pay £200,000 for 50,000 shares in a company not yet registered. The Prince "requested the return of the remainder of the bills for the copper shares," which, says Mr. Vanderbilt, "I naturally refused." Naturally, is good.

ASQUITH'S NIGHTMARE:

OR, THE PARTY WHICH HOLDS THE TRUMP CARD.

(With apologies to the proprietors of "The Brass Bottle.")

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,,	13	156,990	,,	12	198,670	,,	8	248,720
,,	20	158,240	,,	19	200,790	,,	15	252,380
,,	27	160,310	,,	26	203,140	,,	22	255,970
Feb.	3	162,530	June	2	205,860	,,	29	259,610
,,	10	164,720	,,	9	208,170	Oct.	6	262,870
,,	17	167,180	,,	16	210,920	,,	13	266,530
,,	24	169 350	,,	23	213,470	,,	20	270,190
Mar.	3	171,760	,,	30	216,580	,,	27	274,350
,,	10	174,580	July	7	219,860	Nov.	3	278,610
,,	17	177,210	,,	14	222,150	,,	10	282,970
,,	24	180,490	,,	21	225,270	,,	17	287,350
,,	31	182,170	,,	28	228,690	,,	24	291,690
Apl.	7	185 060	Aug.	4	231,850	Dec.	1	295,280
,,	14	188,210	,,	11	235,260	,,	8	298,960
,,	21	190,430	,,	18	238,590	,,	15	302,610
,,	28	193,150	,,	25	242,190	,,	22	307,190
						,,	29	310,240

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THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"The Strong People."

With such a powerful play as John Galsworthy's "Strife," human to the backbone, and teeming with observation and character, still fresh in "our mind's eye, Horatio," how could Lewis Waller expect so pale an attempt as "The Strong People," written round this same Capital and Labour question, to produce anything but an unfavourable effect?

Mr. Galsworthy began his drama with a strong argument, and ended it with a most conclusive answer, however much people may have disagreed with it.

Mr. C. M. S. McLellan flounders forth in a bewildering fashion, treats us to unconvincing sermons by the yard, and finishes up by making an example of his *Strong People* by proving them to be just the weakest things on record.

We do not require four acts of tedious talk to try to persuade us that ducks are drakes, unless the author can convince us that he is right and we are wrong, and no long-winded speeches, no matter how well-spoken they are by Lewis Waller, Lyn Harding and Dorothy Dix.

That such an imperfect story has "failed to attract" and will only enjoy a run of twelve nights as per newspaper announcements does not in the least astonish me. What I cannot understand, though, is why such a play as "The Strong People" was ever produced at the Lyric Theatre at all.

"The O'Flynn."

Some years ago, in Paris, Catulle Mendes—the late dramatic critic of *Le Journal*—who always took a great interest in the English drama, but rarely visited this country, asked me what sort of a state the British drama was in. It was at the time when the *pièces à thèses* and swashbuckling concoctions were the rage. When I told him, he just shrugged his shoulders and said, "That seems a mistake to me, the last word in those kind of works will always rest with the two Dumas. The son will never be surpassed for problem plays, and for heroes of the D'Artagnan type Dumas *père* has never been equalled, let alone outrivalled."

And this remark came into my thoughts again, as I sat watching Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy's latest, named "The O'Flynn," so magnificently staged at His Majesty's Theatre by Beerbohm Tree.

To compare Mr. McCarthy's work with Edmond Rostand's "Cyrano de Bergerac"—as most of the critics have done—is not flattering to the French author. Rostand may have told an old story, but it was done in a remarkably fresh and attractive manner. Then "Cyrano" was in verse—and beautiful verse too. "The O'Flynn" is in prose, and prose that never rises above the ordinary.

That "The O'Flynn" was somewhat handicapped on the first night owing to the slow pace it was taken at, I am willing to admit, but even if the "true spirit" had been infused into it, I am afraid the high-water mark of popular favour would hardly have been reached.

Sir Herbert has acted many parts in his time, but has rarely had to tackle a lengthier one than that of "The O'Flynn." He seems to be on the stage from the commencement of Act I. to the fall of the curtain on Act IV. In fact the entire weight of the play rests on his shoulders.

As Lady Benedetta Mountmichael, Miss Evelyn D'Alroy has a somewhat erratic and incomprehensible character to tackle, but all this charming young actress's talent could not make Lady Benedetta a "living being." Nevertheless, Miss D'Alroy looks extremely handsome, and her sweet, clear enunciation is a delight in these days of inaudible babbling. Henry Ainley—for once the villain of the play—also gives a clever little study as the Earl of Sedgemouth, and, needless to say, the splendour of the scenery is precisely what Sir Herbert has trained us to expect at His Majesty's, and this spells perfection.

At the Tivoli.

A most amusing, if somewhat *risqué*, little sketch is being played this week by Mrs. Lewis Waller and Co. at the Strand Tivoli Music Hall.

It is adapted from that most successful Palais Royal three-act farce, entitled "L'Inconnue," by Paul Gavault and Georges Berr, and when I tell you that the story opens with a bridegroom—a young man whose past has not been altogether a blameless one—who is in the act of dressing for his wedding, and hearing cries of distress from the street, rushes out and brings in a gorgeously attired lady, whom he has saved from being run over, only to find the poor thing has lost her memory, that she doesn't even remember her name or where she lives, and a doctor, hastily summoned, orders the "lost woman" to be immediately put to bed in the prospective husband's bachelor chambers, you may imagine the "fun of the fair."

In the French "L'Inconnue" is a brilliantly "blue" screamer, and in the English "Lost, Stolen or Strayed," as it is called, sails as close to the wind as *les convenances* permit.

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NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—

Will "half"-measures be adopted with the House of Lords?

Is Winston Churchill to get an Irish rise?

Wasn't the "humour of the election" mostly ill-humour?

Hasn't the "No Smoking" rule on the Stock Exchange made members fume more?

Is the new competition in a contemporary called "Tirgles" because it will make competitors smart?

Has the loss of Wick made the Unionists wax?

Is "No Breakfast"—just published—a fast book?

In the event of war between Greece and Turkey, won't the fat be in the fire?

Will "Exchange, no Jobbery," be the motto of the Labour Exchanges?

Is "Goalo," the new game for girls, a contraction of "go along"?

Is Prince George of Servia "leaving his country for his country's good"?

Is it to be called the Harmony Club because the members will play together?

"Husband Who Costs Nothing," we read. The dear man.

The Deal Angling Society gave a concert recently. "Catchy" airs were the most applauded.

The German inventor who proposes to reach the North Pole in a submarine will find a Cook's tour safer.

The Rev. A. E. Stantial, of Felixstowe, has produced a pantomime. We trust the proceeds will be substantial.

"Mr. Asquith's Fencing," reads a headline. Things are come to a pretty pass.

It is stated that 4,443,012,245 eggs were used in the United Kingdom in 1909. And there was no General Election then.

"Sixty-seven Years an Oddfellow," reads a headline. We know men who have been that all their lives.

Judge Willis advises children never to quarrel with their parents if they can possibly avoid it. But parents are so difficult to manage nowadays.

"A seat in the House of Commons is the greatest prize of civil life," says Mr. H. Rose. "Civil" is good.

The Dublin evening paper *Sinn Fein* has ceased to exist. Sinn Feinis.

Mr. Justice Jelf, who complained of the lighting of the Shire Hall, Ipswich, should remember that justice is supposed to be blind.

"The Eternal Fires," which has just been published, is apparently of consuming interest.

"Marriage is such a toss up," says Charles Igglesden. Yet women give anything for the chance.

Without their Pease, how will members take their cues?

Judge Willis: "One of the signs of a man being out of employment is when you see him with a cigarette in his mouth." But he still has something to draw.

Will the Comet be a star turn for the papers after the election?

Too many candidates indulged in childish talk. But many have now obtained their majority.

The hero of the novel, "A Flutter with Fate," is not a flying man.

Heading: "Committee Rooms on Fire." Heated arguments?

Election news: Return of snow. Cold at the Poll.

"Ape in the witness-box," we read. Nothing new.

Headline: "Life of a Sunshade." All ups and downs.

Thus a writer on the Comet: "Venus is easily picked up in the south-west after sunset."

"Old Nick" is the name of a racehorse. We would back it for a certain place.

A freight war between British and German shipping is threatened. We hope they won't run each other down.

"Are Londoners Slow?" asks a morning paper. Possibly; lots of them don't get on.

Mr. Biron has been complaining of cold in his court. But there are always draughts at a bar.

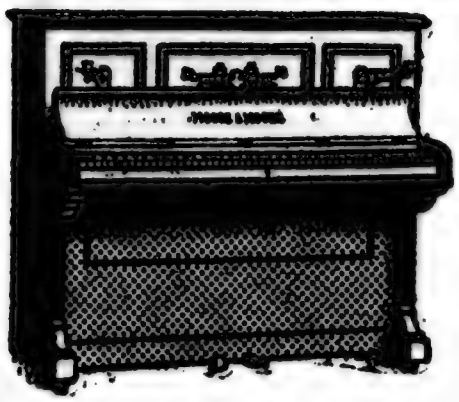
Three men (?) were fined at Newport for painting cats with enamel and turpentine. The cat should have decorated *them*.

"I am one of the chosen poor," said John Catte, charged with begging. Rats!

"There is no back door by which you can crawl into literature," says Sir A. Conan Doyle. Yet very few come to the front.

Thirty-two Camberwell streets are to be planted with trees. We hope it won't become a shady neighbourhood.

"There are certain businesses where it is necessary for men to drink together," says Mr. Troutbeck. And they are all overcrowded.



THIS Excellent Piano—The famous model—will be sent to your home for 30 days' trial. If you like it you pay £19:13:9 cash or payments of 14/- a month; if not, there is no charge whatsoever—we take the piano away. A fair offer.

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The Famous British Piano Manufacturers

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He's a Good Friend To You

Do you ever make him any return for his friendship? You'll have to go a long way before you meet a stauncher friend, or a more agreeable companion than your dog. Then

MAKE HIM SOME SLIGHT RETURN.

You can't give him presents or other things of a similar nature, he doesn't appreciate them; but

THERE'S NOTHING HE'LL LIKE BETTER

than SPRATT'S Dog Cakes or Puppy Biscuits. It's not much to you, but to him it's EVERYTHING.

SPRATT'S DOG CAKES

They are sold by all Dealers.

SPRATT'S Patent Ltd., 24 & 25, Fenchurch St., London, E.C.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The Editor *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor can accept no responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL.

The Editor *can express no opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be sent in the first instance; if inspection of the originals is required, a request will be forwarded to that effect.*

E. J. (Birmingham) thanks us for helping him to trace a Canadian friend. He regrets that we are not on the Unionist side and writes: "You somewhat resemble Mr. J. C., and I consider that nobody could so ably have taken his place." This is indeed a compliment for Jim Crow.

T. B. W. (Zululand) says that if we knew the Kaffirs we should modify our opinion. We certainly think they should be dealt with severely for assaults on white women.

The Musical MSS. Agency (6, Cork Street, Burlington Gardens, W.) replying to the complaint of A. B. (Whitstable) say that they have written to him fully regarding his supposed grievance, but he will not deign to answer. They inform us that they have been successful in placing several songs with prominent firms, but they cannot always find a market immediately.

The M. A. Winter Co. (Washington, D.C.) write to deny that they have been debarred from the use of the American mails owing to a "fraud order" having been issued against them. They appear to be the only practitioners of their trick who have escaped.

A. T. (Oxford Street) and many others, correct the story which we took from the Parochial Magazine of Holybourne. They say what really happened was that a parson had a prodigal son who came home and was asked where he had been. "In hell," was the reply. "And how did you get on there?" "Much the same as here. You could not get near the fire for parsons." This is one of the stories which used to be told in the Ark during wet weather The Holybourne parson evidently did not like to tell the tale against his own cloth.

"Alpha" (Edinburgh) complains of a puzzle competition sheet called *Bot's Weekly*. Solutions and money have to be sent to G. Arrowsmith, Middelburg, Holland. Our correspondent informs us that Arrowsmith has no office at all in Middelburg but lives in London and flits across to Holland every week for his mail. His real name is supposed to be Lofthouse. N.B.—Not *Bottomley's* Weekly.

J. S. (Motherwell) says Mr. Hudson's article on Socialism is the silliest he has ever read. What else has he read?

J. S. G. (Cardiff).—It is quite in keeping with the party system for a monopolist candidate to cry: "Down with monopolies!"

S. M. (Bromley).—We do not see why candidates or their agents should not enquire how people are going to vote. Such a question is not an infringement of the secrecy of the ballot for nobody is bound to answer truthfully. But enquiries by post are a nuisance.

"A Bullite" (London, W.) says that canvassers representing a so-called West London Employment Association, 252, Harrow Road, W., are calling on tradespeople and others collecting sums of money. They claim to have some four hundred out-of-works on their books, and issue circulars asking employers to communicate with them when they have vacancies. Our correspondent informs us that the man who started this concern professes to be a medical man. Perhaps other readers can give us information?

J. J. (Grimsby).—Members of the House of Commons do not receive any remuneration for either their attendance in the House of Commons or upon Private Bill Committees—worse luck.

Scottie (Harrow-on-the-Hill).—We note that you want to "mix with society and settle down." Address Conductor, Hampstead Social Circle, Stanley Gardens, Hampstead, London.

Scotty (Bellshill).—The Glasgow woman who threw her illegitimate child down an embankment in the desperation of her poverty and was sent to prison for nine months may, as you say, have been less deserving of punishment than the man who deserted her. A painful case.

"An Edinburgh Bullite" (Edinburgh).—We answer correspondents as fast as we can, and we have been very busy exposing football frauds, but if we published all the letters received on the subject, we believe that the world would not be large enough to contain the books that should be written.

S. M. E. (Whitehall Park) has authority to state that no person of the name of Von Husen was ever ordained at Cologne. This illustrates the methods of the Protestant Alliance.

A. J. K. (London, N.W.) says that Von Husen is earnestly working for the truth irrespective of sect.

A London Barrister

Brain-fag, Insomnia, Lassitude—

The plain fact that everybody is satisfied ensures that all may be *certain*, of getting *some good, some benefit*, from Phosferine. For proof, take the direct statement of Henry Stephen, Esq., Barrister, who says, "I was subject to brain-fag, lassitude, and insomnia, but Phosferine has amply proved its remarkable invigorating and sustaining properties, and I now have a splendid fund of energy." That is the decided experience of a man trained to *get at the facts*, and nothing but his real and permanent gain of vitality could inspire his commendation. It is the sincerity of Mr. Stephen's tribute, the reliability of the thousands of other appreciations from Royalty, Doctors, Clergymen, Workers, &c., which establish that Phosferine *always* accomplishes its remedial purpose. To many sufferers it means everything to be *certain* of regaining health and energy, and it is a positive relief that such definite guarantees of the efficacy of Phosferine are supplied by all classes of the public.

Entirely Banished.

Henry Stephen, Esq., Barrister, 4, Plowden Buildings, Temple, writes:—"My personal experience of Phosferine has amply proved its remarkable invigorating and sustaining properties. Leading an extremely occupied life, with continuous calls upon my nervous organization, and physically handicapped by the close atmospheres of chambers and courtrooms, I am often thoroughly exhausted and run down. I have been subject to 'brain-fag,' lassitude, nervous depression, and insomnia.

"I have wonderfully improved in every respect, and must admit that Phosferine recoups the nervous and physical frame in a remarkable manner, and I intend to continue its use. My professional duties and literary work are onerous and exacting, but at the present time *I have a splendid fund of energy* and am able to pass through the most trying day without ill-effects. Allow me to admit my great indebtedness to the undoubted restoring and protective power of Phosferine."—July 27, 1909.

PHOSFERINE

THE GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

Neuralgia	Premature Decay	Anæmia
Rheumatism	Maternity Weakness	Malaria
Brain-fag	Nervous Headaches	Sleeplessness
Indigestion	Sciatica	Nervousness

and all disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

THE REMEDY OF KINGS.

Phosferine has been supplied by Royal Commands

To the Royal Family	H.M. the King of Greece
H.I.M. the Empress of Russia	H.M. The King of Spain
H.M. the Queen of Roumania	The Imperial Family of China

And the Principal Royalty and Aristocracy throughout the World.

Phosferine Re-creates the Nerve Forces.

Bottles, 1/1½, 2/9, and 4/6. Sold by all Chemists, Stores, &c.

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size

THE DISILLUSIONED CYCLIST'S SONG.

(With apologies to Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan.)

The flowers that bloom in the Spring,
Tra la,
Have nothing to do with the case;
But the Mud and the Water of Spring,
Tra la,
All over your chain you will fling
Tra la,
If you've only a shoddy gear case,
A Sardine Protector Gear Case.
And that's why I say (and insist on) one thing,
If the smile of content to your face you would bring,
You must get a Sunbeam in the Spring,
Tra la,
And ever thereafter you'll sing,
Tra la—Tra la la la la,
Tra la, la, la, la,
La, la, la, la, la,
La.

Royal Sunbeams with the one and only Little Oil Bath Gear Case, can now be purchased at £12 12s. net.

This new 1910 model is in great demand.

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Loose Bristles Impossible. Each Tuft set in Aluminium. Supplied with extra Cleaning Brush.

Send to-day 3d. in stamps for box of Mysantal Dental Preparations, or 1/6 for sample Tooth Brush, to

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NOVEL CO-OPERATIVE OPTION SCHEME.
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Seed Growers to T.M. the King and late Queen for 61 years.

BOOTS-BY-POST
WHY THIS METHOD IS CHEAPER AND BETTER THAN BUYING BOOTS AT LOCAL STORES.

Because these All-Leather "Footshapes" are offered "direct-from-the-factory-to-YOU." Because they cost you less and wear twice as long as the general run of boots sold at local retail shops.

This is where you stand to *GAIN* if you buy boots through the post. And it is extremely easy. All you have to do is to select the style you fancy, state size and width required, and enclose P.O. to the value of the goods. We have all sizes constantly in stock and can execute your order at once and dispatch parcel by return of post.

If the goods are not approved we will return your money without hesitation. Besides which we pay all postage and out-of pocket expenses.

Send a trial order on this understanding—see for yourself.

OUR CATALOGUE saves Pounds in your Family Boot Bill. FREE on receipt of 2d (to cover cost of postage only).

POST FREE **8/6** FROM THE FACTORY TO YOUR DOOR

No 1617

DESCRIPTIONS.

No. 1617.—BOX CALF BOOT, 8/6.—Splendid Box Calf Uppers, straight golosh, no outside seam, unbreakable jockey back, toe-capped as illustrated, best linen lined, specially selected, hard-wearing solid leather sole, sewn. Best make and finish throughout.

No. 1717.—GLACE KID BOOT, 8/6.—Exactly same style and quality as above, but slightly lighter in weight.

No. 1417.—BROWN WILLOW CALF, 8/6.—A magnificent boot. Rich nut brown shade and warranted real "Willow" Calf.

The "Barratt" System of sizes and widths.

GENTLEMEN'S "Footshape" Boots are made in eight different sizes, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (size 11, 1/- extra). Each size is made in four different widths — No. 3 width (for slender feet); No. 4 (medium); No. 5 (wide); No. 6 (extra wide).

Altogether you have 32 different sizes and widths to select from.

HOW TO ORDER.—State size (length) usually worn, then the width, according to the shape of your foot. If narrow, order No. 3 width; if medium, No. 4 width; if wide, No. 5 width; if extra wide, No. 6 width. Boots exchanged or cash refunded in the unlikely event of a mis-fit or dissatisfaction.

W. BARRATT & CO., LTD.
THE WORLD'S LEADING "BOOTS-BY-POST" SPECIALISTS
(Desk 66), STERLING WORKS, NORTHAMPTON.

"Well begun is half done"
and certainly your tooth cleaning is done well, done quickly and done pleasantly by the help of
Calvert's Tooth Powder
Of all Chemists, in tins, 6d. 1/- and 1/6.
For trial sample send penny stamp to F.C. Calvert & Co. (J.B. Dept.), Manchester.
If you prefer to sprinkle the Powder on the brush, ask for our new package, a glass jar with sprinkler top. Price 1/- nett.

"FAIRPLAY" (Bayswater) says that Mr. Davies, of Bayswater, provides food at least equal to that of West End houses, and that we should have to go "a jolly long way in the drapery trade to find a better employer." We will.

A. G. B. (Stratford) wants us to bring out a JOHN BULL Diary for 1910; but the suggestion comes a little bit late. We will see what we can do for 1911.

W. E. J. (Southchurch).—We are often down on the intolerance of teetotalers. We are, therefore, glad to air your grievance about the eating-house with a beer licence refusing to give a glass of water with a meal. You might have put them to shame by offering to pay for it.

L. H. S. (Maida Hill).—Certainly, parsons are quite entitled to take an interest in politics, but it is not fair of them to make political speeches from the pulpit where they cannot be answered.

"VERITAS" (London, S.W.) says many competent drivers are unable to obtain taxi-cabs. So are many prospective fares.

"CONSTANT READER" (West Hartlepool) says that the "Playground of Science" (11 and 13, Bride Street, E.C.) advertise thirty-six toys for 1s., but send things which do not deserve to be called toys, and sometimes fail to affix the proper postage. Very careless of them.

"ANNO DOMINI" (Dover).—The Bill to which you refer relating to contracts between employers and employees as to prohibited areas, did not get through.

D. T. F. (Fulham) protests against a proposal to store 270,000 gallons of petrol in the neighbourhood of the Fulham Football Club. He exclaims dramatically: "Picture to yourself, sir, 30,000 men and women enjoying their afternoon's sport being blown to eternity." Is it so dangerous as all that?

J. M. (Walsall) wants a biscuit for a paper which referred to an old man as *Junior* member. But that is the ordinary phrase for the one with the smaller majority.

"UNEMPLOYED" (London, N.) says that in his case very elaborate enquiries were made when he applied for a post as auxiliary postman.

C. M. (Stockton).—We do not recommend any of the football competitions

H.A.F. (Shanklin) sends us a copy of a letter which was addressed by Mrs. Baring, the wife of the defeated candidate and late member for the Isle of Wight, soliciting votes on her husband's behalf, and asks us to apply a little criticism to it. We must not, however, add to the lady's grief.

H. H. (Leeds).—We rather like the parody of the hymn, though we shudder to think what would have been said if such a liberty had been taken by anyone but a Minister. The sentiments are all right and do not tell in favour of any party.

A. E. B. (Putney).—The Business man's answer is to stick to Free Trade wherever it pays to do so.

J. G. L. (London) and others tell us that persons are calling at City offices for donations to the London and Suburban Philanthropic Association, 115, Borough High Street, S.E. They ask whether it is genuine. The answer is that, as no proper accounts are published, there are no means of checking the work done, and in regard to the whole matter "we hae our doots." The "Association" seems to exist mainly for the benefit of its officials.

W. H. P. (Wood Green) sends us a specimen of a wrapper of a German firm of lace manufacturers containing portraits of our King and Queen and the Royal Arms—about which he is very indignant. We agree that this is carrying a joke a bit too far.

J. N. N. (Sydney, New South Wales).—Always glad to hear from over-sea readers, but whilst appreciating the sentiments contained in the verses on A Business Government, are sorry we cannot find space for them. It would mean keeping out nearly a page of advertisements—and that wouldn't be business, would it? Remember us to all the boys.

INTERESTED READER (Southampton).—Our opinion of a vicar who won't marry you to your deceased wife's sister is what you may imagine it to be. But he is within his strict legal rights. Find a broader-minded one, or patronise a Registry Office.

DISGUSTED.—Our eagle eyes are on Ilford.

S. H. (Dorchester).—Sorry we don't know whether the parson you name is an honest man, or whether he is at present in charge of souls or not.

G. M. R. (Birmingham).—People who employ uncertificated nurses have only themselves to blame.

N. R. (South Lambeth) is thoroughly disgusted with Jim Crow's view of Frenchmen in his article on Belgians. He should have read our introductory paragraph before blaming us.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

TRADE NOTE.

YOUR BOOKS' BEST HOME.

Good books, like true friends, grow dearer upon acquaintance; their company each succeeding year affords some new delight; ere long they come to win from us a homage close akin to love. Are they not worth a fitting home?

The "Gunn" Sectional Bookcase provides a dwelling for your books worthy of those silent life-long friends, worthy of you. The "Gunn" Bookcase protects your books perfectly, but leaves them quite get-at-able—and that is what you want.

The "Gunn" Bookcase is cleverly devised in handy sections; each section is complete. Fit these sections side by side or one above the other, as you please. They will grace your dining-room, they will suit the bachelor's den, they will dignify a mighty library; they are handsome, convenient, durable, economical, adaptable. Your books had never such a home before.

The "Gunn" keeps your books together, many or few, large or small; its moving parts are finished to perfection, its materials are selected with the utmost care; it is made to endure.

We heartily recommend to all booklovers a perusal of the new "Gunn" Booklet, No. 67, a beautifully illustrated *brochure* describing in detail the many attractions which the "Gunn" Bookcase offers. A copy of this will be forwarded free if a post-card be sent to Wm. Angus and Co., Ltd., 52, Paul Street, Finsbury, London, E.C.

The "Beef-Eaters" at the Tower of London

are romantic to look at

but the regular "beef-eaters" in everyday life are all too often a heavy-eyed, muddy-skinned lot.

Eat Quaker Oats at least once each day during this month; eat less greasy foods and meat and watch the results.

You'll be astonished at the improvement in the health and vigour of the family, and you'll continue to eat Quaker Oats every day in the year.

27 JB

FARROW'S BANK,

Limited,

THE PEOPLE'S BANK.

Chairman and Managing Director, MR. THOMAS FARROW.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS 2½ per cent. paid on Credit Balances.
DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS (Ordinary) 3 to 5 per cent. Interest.
POPULAR DEPOSIT NOTES . . . . £1 to £1,000.
TERMINABLE DEPOSIT NOTES . . . 5 to 21 years.

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CROYDON (WEST)—5, Royal Parade.
GOSPORT—High Street.
GRIMSBY—182-5, Cleethorpes Road.
LEEDS—62, Vicar Lane.
LEICESTER—35, Gallowtree Gate.
CARDIFF—65, St. Mary St.
SOUTHEND—164, High St.
BRIXTON—6, Acre Lane.
CLAPHAM JUNCTION—50, St. John's Road.
HOLLOWAY—290 Holloway Road, N.
WOOLWICH—101, Powis St.
LEWES—182, High Street.
LIVERPOOL—St. John's Lane.
MANCHESTER—36 Deansgate.
NEWHAVEN—11, High Street.
NORWICH—34, Market Place.
NOTTINGHAM—13, Milton St.,
PLYMOUTH—Bedford Street.
PORTSMOUTH—214, Commercial Road.
SHEFFIELD—48, Snig Hill.
SHOREHAM—4, High Street.
WORTHING—110, Montague Street.
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WHITECHAPEL—283, Whitechapel Road, E.
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Many years of Experience in Cycle Speed Gears have convinced the leading Experts that—
A direct drive gear of about 65 for Hard Work (*Head Winds and Hills*), and a high gear for Easy Work are the two Gears all Cyclists need, and the ONLY two. The Villiers Patent Hub supplies them. It is now being fitted to existing Bicycles for ONE GUINEA.
Fitted with a Villiers Gear your old Bicycle will have the advantage of the newest 1910 Patterns.
Write The Villiers Co., Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, for particulars, and say who is your local repairer who would fit this gear.

Mr. Bradley at the age of 78.

OLD-AGE COUGHS

Asthma, Bronchitis and Blood-spitting.

Veno's Lightning Cough Cure is now recognised the world over, as the standard remedy for all affections of chest, throat and lungs.
MR. GEORGE BRADLEY, Long Street, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos., writes—
"Two years ago I had a serious illness which left me with a very bad cough, but Veno's Lightning Cough Cure cured me after trying everything else in vain. I always use it when I have a cold or cough, and it never fails to cure me. I am 78 years of age, a fact which shows the wonderful sustaining properties of Veno's Lightning Cough Cure."

Ask for Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, 9½d., 1/6, & 2/6, of all chemists.

VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE.

Next time you buy Pencils
why not try 'Koh-I-Noor'? You will find them cheaper in the end, and better all the time.

L. & C. Hardtmuth's

'KOH-I-NOOR' PENCILS

are the Pencils that Commander Peary took with him to the North Pole, and with which he wrote his records.

"Koh-I-Noor" Pencils are 4d. each or 3/6 per doz. Of stationers, &c. List free from L. & C. Hardtmuth, 12, Golden Lane, London, E.C. (Paris, Vienna, Dresden, Milan, Brussels, New York.)

BRACKNELL'S Club Sauce

A revelation in sauces, and the delight of the connoisseur. Try it.

Per 8oz. Bottle. **6d.** Of all Grocers.

FREE OFFER If any difficulty in obtaining, send one penny stamp and name of your Grocer, and a sample bottle will be sent free by G. & S. BRACKNELL (Dept. s), Brandon Road, King's Cross, London.

FINANCIAL SUCCESS.

"THE LAW OF FINANCIAL SUCCESS"
tells you in plain English how to make money and secure financial independence. It contains positive rules and instructions for every man and woman desirous of bettering their financial condition. The low price is but a fraction of its real value. Over 100,000 copies have already been sold. The book will be mailed post-paid promptly upon receipt of 6d.

6D.

SEND FOR IT TO-DAY.

The Fiduciary Co., 28, Century House, Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.

Matchless Mixtures.

Just try any one of the following perfect blends if you wish to experience real pleasure from your pipe.

"TWO HOURS" Mixture 5d. per oz.
Cool, Fragrant, and absolutely Pure.

"ALDERWOOD" Mixture 5½d. per oz.
In Three Strengths. Our Latest Success.

"LUNTIN" Mixture 6½d. per oz.
In Three Strengths.
The Blend that made us famous.

"MOUND" Mixture 1/4 per 2 ozs.
Blended from the finest leaf procurable.

All the Best Tobacconists supply the above, but should you have any difficulty, send stamps to the amount for Samples to the Manufacturers,

Thomson & Porteous, Edinburgh.

BOVRIL

REPELS COLDS, CHILLS AND INFLUENZA.

RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.
(*"Larry Lynx" of* The People, *and "Magpie" of* The Globe.)

Medley.

"Looking for 'dead' horses" is the term used regarding the Stewards officiating in their observation stands in South Africa.

Mr. A. Cresswell has named a four-year-old Velocity filly Anchovy, which was the name of a very useful hurdle jumper—not ten years ago.

"Wouldn't back it with counterfeit coin," is the saying when one is very much prejudiced against a horse.

What a lot we *see*, or think we see, concerning particular horses running at race meetings.

"I have backed myself," is often a jocular shout during a lull in wagering, or during the running of a race.

Certain executives are on the *qui vive*, and propose taking action *re* the "arranging" and "squaring" that goes on at auctions after selling races.

It is very gratifying news that the sportsman in South Africa to whom Half Sovereign was shipped, advises me of her safe arrival and as to how very delighted he is with the filly.

Prophetic.

Only the week-end sport to be dealt with now, and that very much influenced by what has happened at Plumpton and Hurst Park. If Red Cloud has not been disgraced or won already, his chance in the Hurst Handicap to-day (Thursday) is very obvious, for many of the others have either been beaten or penalised since the weights were published. Those who want to wager often can go for Rathvale in the Grange Handicap, and even much more substantially for

Putchamin,

who has "nothing" to beat in the February Plate, and will surely, on the Kempton form, hold the four-year-old Mago Pico at evens.

The usual "Lingfield" horses will carry our money round the pretty if holding little course, but I need only hint that Red Cloud and Putchamin are in here as well as at Hurst Park.

Comfortable Chins.

After shaving, nothing will give such a cool, comfortable, velvety feeling to the chin as ICILMA FLUOR CREAM. Used overnight, it softens the skin, makes shaving easy, and prevents roughness, redness and soreness.

Of all Chemists, 1s. Send 2d. for sample to ICILMA CO., LTD. (Dept. 5), 14a Rosebery Avenue, LONDON, E.C.

Icilma Fluor Cream

CURE YOUR

RUPTURE

AND DISCARD THE TRUSS.

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RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.
(*"Larry Lynx" of* The People, *and "Magpie" of* The Globe.)

Medley.

"Looking for 'dead' horses" is the term used regarding the Stewards officiating in their observation stands in South Africa.

Mr. A. Cresswell has named a four-year-old Velocity filly Anchovy, which was the name of a very useful hurdle jumper—not ten years ago.

"Wouldn't back it with counterfeit coin," is the saying when one is very much prejudiced against a horse.

What a lot we *see*, or think we see, concerning particular horses running at race meetings.

"I have backed myself," is often a jocular shout during a lull in wagering, or during the running of a race.

Certain executives are on the *qui vive*, and propose taking action *re* the "arranging" and "squaring" that goes on at auctions after selling races.

It is very gratifying news that the sportsman in South Africa to whom Half Sovereign was shipped, advises me of her safe arrival and as to how very delighted he is with the filly.

Prophetic.

Only the week-end sport to be dealt with now, and that very much influenced by what has happened at Plumpton and Hurst Park. If Red Cloud has not been disgraced or won already, his chance in the Hurst Handicap to-day (Thursday) is very obvious, for many of the others have either been beaten or penalised since the weights were published. Those who want to wager often can go for Rathvale in the Grange Handicap, and even much more substantially for

Putchamin,

who has "nothing" to beat in the February Plate, and will surely, on the Kempton form, hold the four-year-old Mago Pico at evens.

The usual "Lingfield" horses will carry our money round the pretty if holding little course, but I need only hint that Red Cloud and Putchamin are in here as well as at Hurst Park.

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